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FORTY-THIRD
QUARTERLY REPORT
— OF THE —
PENNSYLVANIA
Board of Agriculture.



The Management of
County Agricultural Societies.

1890.

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1890.

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FORTY-THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Members Ex-Officio.

Hon. James A. Beaver, *Governor.*
 Hon. Thos. J. Stewart, *Secretary of Internal Affairs.*
 Dr. D. J. Waller, Jr., *Superintendent of Public Instruction.*
 Hon. Thomas McCamant, *Auditor General.*
 Dr. Geo. W. Atherton, *President Pennsylvania State College.*

Appointed by the Governor.

	<i>Term expires.</i>
Col. James Young, Middletown, Dauphin county, Pa.	1891
Hon. S. R. Downing, West Chester, Chester county, Pa.	1892
Hon. Will B. Powell, Springboro', Crawford county, Pa.	1893

Elected by County Agricultural Societies.

		<i>Term expires.</i>
Adams	I. Garretson	1891
Armstrong	Noah Senor	1893
Beaver	A. L. McKibben	1893
Bedford	S. S. Diehl	1891
Berks	G. D. Stitzel	1892
Bucks	E. Reeder	1893
Butler	W. H. H. Riddle	1891
Bradford	R. H. Laning	1892
Blair	Frederick Jaekel	1892
Clarion	W. Shanafelt	1892
Chester	Thos. J. Edge	1893
Centre	Dr. E. W. Hale	1891
Clinton	J. A. Herr	1893
Columbia	Chandlee Eves	1891
Crawford	J. B. Phelps	1892
Cumberland	C. H. Mullin	1891
Dauphin	G. Hiester	1891
Erie	J. C. Thornton	1892
Franklin	D. Z. Shook	1893
Indiana	W. C. Gordon	1892
Jefferson	J. McCracken, Jr.	1893
Juniata		1891
Lackawanna	H. H. Colvin	1891
Lancaster	Calvin Cooper	1892
Lawrence	Samuel McCreary	1891
Lebanon	C. R. Lantz	1891
Lehigh	Dr. J. P. Barnes	1891
Luzerne	J. B. Smith	1893
Lycoming	P. Reeder	1891
Mercer	Robert McKee	1893
Montgomery	H. W. Kratz	1893
Montour	J. K. Murray	1892
Northampton	A. D. Shimer	1891
Northumberland	John Hoffa	1893
Perry	F. M. McKeehan	1891
Schuylkill	J. T. Shoener	1892
Somerset	N. B. Critchfield	1892
Sullivan	J. H. Lawrence	1891
Susquehanna	R. S. Searle	1892
Tioga	J. W. Mather	1892
Union	J. A. Gundy	1893
Venango	A. Frazier	1892
Warren	Chas. Lott	1892
Washington	John McDowell	1893
Wayne	N. F. Underwood	1892
Westmoreland	F. Y. Clopper	1892
Wyoming	N. G. Bunnell	1892
York	Dr. W. S. Roland	1892
	Biglerville	1891
	Plumville	1893
	Green Garden	1893
	Bedford	1891
	Reading	1892
	New Hope	1893
	Towanda	1892
	Holidaysburg	1892
	Brinkerton	1892
	Harrisburg	1893
	Bellefonte	1891
	Cedar Springs	1893
	Millville	1891
	Conneautville	1892
	Mt. Holly Springs	1891
	Harrisburg	1891
	Avonia	1892
	Greencastle	1893
	Black Lick	1892
	Frostburg	1893
	Dalton	1891
	Bird-in-Hand	1892
	Neshannock Falls	1891
	Lebanon	1891
	Allentown	1891
	Kingston	1893
	Hughesville	1891
	Mercer	1893
	Norristown	1893
	Potts' Grove	1892
	Bethlehem	1891
	Milton	1893
	Ferguson	1891
	Orwigsburg	1892
	Jenner's X Roads	1892
	Dushore	1891
	Montrose	1892
	Wellsboro'	1892
	Lewisburg	1893
	Cooperstown	1892
	North Warren	1892
	Washington	1893
	Lake Como	1892
	Greensburg	1892
	Vosburg	1892
	York	1892

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QUARTERLY REPORT.

OFFICIAL LIST.

*President.*Hon. James A. Beaver (*ex-officio*).*Vice Presidents.*

John McDowell,

N. F. Underwood,

Eastburn Reeder.

*Executive Committee.*Hon. James A. Beaver,
J. A. Herr,
R. S. Searle,G. D. Stitzel,
J. W. Mather,
Dr. W. S. Roland,C. Cooper,
S. McCreary,
Thos. J. Edge (*ex-officio*).*Advisory Committee.*

G. D. Stitzel,

Dr. W. S. Roland,
Thos. J. Edge (*ex-officio*).

Calvin Cooper,

Secretary.

Thos. J. Edge, Harrisburg.

Botanist.

Thos. Meehan, Germantown.

Pomologist.

Cyrus T. Fox, Reading.

Chemist.

Dr. Wm. Frear, State College.

Consulting Veterinary Surgeon.

Dr. R. S. Huidekoper, Philadelphia.

Veterinary Surgeon.

Dr. F. Bridge, West Philadelphia.

Microscopists and Hygienists.

Dr. H. Leffmann, Philadelphia,

Prof. C. B. Cochran, West Chester.

*Entomologist.**Ornithologist.*

Dr. B. H. Warren, West Chester.

Meteorologists.

J. L. Heacock, Esq., Quakertown.

Maj. Frank Ridgway, Harrisburg.

Apiarist.

Prof. G. G. Groff, Lewisburg.

Mineralogist.

Joseph Wilcox, Philadelphia.

Geologist.

Prof. J. P. Lesley, Philadelphia.

Stenographer.

H. C. Demming, Harrisburg.

"That when any number of individuals shall organize themselves into an agricultural or horticultural society, or any agricultural or horticultural society now organized within any of the counties of this commonwealth, shall have adopted a constitution and by-laws for their government, elected their officers, and raised annually, by the voluntary contributions of its members, any sum of money which shall have been actually paid into their treasury, for the purpose of being disbursed for the promotion of agricultural knowledge and improvement, and that fact be attested by the affidavit of their president and treasurer, filed with the commissioners of the county, the said county society shall be entitled to receive annually a like sum from the treasurer of their said county: *Provided*, That said annual payment out of the county funds shall not exceed one hundred dollars: *Provided further*, That but one such society in any county shall be entitled to receive such appropriation in any one year, under this act."—*Section 4, Act No. 203, 1851.*

"*Be it enacted, &c.*, That the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Internal Affairs, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Auditor General, the President of the Pennsylvania State College, and one person appointed from or by each agricultural society in the state, entitled under existing laws to receive an annual bounty from the county, and three persons appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, shall constitute the State Board of Agriculture."—*Section 1, Act 189, 1876.*

"That there shall be but one member of the Board from any county in the state. That any county asking for representation in the Board must have an agricultural society, which shall raise a sum of money each and every year for the advancement of agriculture, so as to be entitled to an annual bounty on the conditions prescribed in the acts of 1851 and 1876."—*From Rules of the Board.*

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

OFFICERS FOR 1890.

President.—Dr. J. P. Barnes, Allentown, Lehigh county, Pa.

Vice Presidents.—John McDowell, Washington, Washington county, Pa., and J. B. Phelps, Conneautville, Crawford county, Pa.

Recording Secretary.—J. W. Mather, Wellsboro, Tioga county, Pa.

Corresponding Secretary.—Cyrus T. Fox, Reading, Berks county, Pa.

During the past two years, just preceding the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania State Association of Agricultural Societies has held its annual meetings at Harrisburg. The State Board of Agriculture has furnished a stenographer and has preserved the essential portions of the discussions which ensued during the consideration of leading topics relating to the management of local and county agricultural societies. The ensuing pages give but a limited portion of the debates and proceedings of the organization, and we regret that our limited space compels us to thus abbreviate the record of the work of the organization; we further regret that we are, for the same reason, unable to publish the minutes of the organization.

THOS. J. EDGE,

Secretary State Board of Agriculture.

DISCUSSIONS.

How can the exhibitions of Agricultural Societies be made most attractive, and at the same time profitable to the society?

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. I do not propose making a speech upon this question at this time. I know that there are gentlemen here who represent agricultural societies in a prosperous condition. I know they not only have good results, but good and attractive exhibitions, and are financially well fixed. I speak now of York county and of Berks county. I think we can profit by remarks from those gentlemen who conduct successful organizations, among the many others.

W. S. ROLAND of York. To my mind this question is one a little difficult to handle. It strikes me there are two propositions in it. One is to make it attractive, and the other to realize a profit. Now, it is a very difficult matter to say how you can make an agricultural exhibition attractive. One party will advocate plenty of horse racing, and another party will say, give us side shows. Others will say, give us more or larger premiums for any of the exhibits that may be brought there. Consequently this is a very difficult question to decide. The only way that I can see how to make an agricultural fair attractive is to give a general invitation to all to come there with whatever they have and exhibit, and then give them large premiums for coming. But that is not always possible to the society. It strikes me, with the question before us, when we discuss the one subject we encroach on the other. I would like to hear some remarks on the subject. We cannot make an exhibition attractive without expense; and, if you want to make it profitable, you injure the exhibits or the character of them.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. I would say in regard to this subject, that I reside in Mercer county, and have been connected more or less with fairs for quite a number of years. There has been one thing that has always bothered the people in our section of country. A number of fairs have been held in the county, and there have been a number of failures. The important question is how to make them attractive, and suit the majority of the people without giving those things that demoralize. You can no doubt attract a great many people by having those things which are hurtful. You may have a dance, or a horse race. I do not question in my mind that you could raise a crowd, and have a profitable county fair for a short time; but my idea is not to run a fair in that channel. In order to manage a fair successfully, we have to secure all those things that belong legitimately to an exhibition of that kind. We have made some changes. For instance, we have cut down the public horse races to that of colts, and have cut out those that have the faster horses, and those who have been engaged in horse racing for profit; and we have tried to make this branch attractive and profitable to all. But it is very difficult to manage all these things and have a successful fair. To accomplish the best results you must get the people interested in the exhibits. It is true in regard to fairs, that they run too much to certain individuals—at least that is the case in my own county. A number of individuals make it a point to take the premiums. Some families have taken a majority of the premiums in the classes where they exhibit from year to year, while others have to stand back. We ought to have all the people interested in the horses and in the cattle, and to have the very best, and have the owners on the ground

exhibiting them. When we have we find that the people come there expecting to receive premiums on equal chances, and that the honors will not be carried away by those who compete from time to time, knowing that in the end they will receive the highest awards as they have received them from year to year. There ought to be a general interest manifested. In my opinion the stock in fair grounds should be divided up in such a way, that they all would be glad to attend our fair, and do the best they could to make it a success. There ought to be more of a division among them than there is now.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. This subject is one that I think is important, and in my section of the state most material. As some of you know, I reside in the extreme north of the state—Tioga county lying next to the line of New York. In our county, we have three agricultural societies holding annual exhibitions; in the county of Bradford, to our east, there are also three fair associations holding annual exhibitions. On the north, in the State of New York, in Steuben county, there are also three fairs held annually. On our west, in the county of Potter, there are two. So you see we are surrounded by agricultural societies and annual exhibitions without end. From the time the season opens until it closes there is a fair somewhere in my neighborhood. Now, in the first week in September, there is to be an exhibition at Hornellsville; the second week at Troupsburg, at Wellsboro' and at Canton, Bradford county. The third week at Westfield, and Ulysses, if they do not change their dates. The fourth week at Mansfield, Towanda, Bath and Elmira.

Now it has come to that pass that there is no attraction to visit a fair for the purpose of examining the stock, the agricultural implements, and the household and domestic manufactures—there must be some attraction—something to draw the people to a certain point, to get their money—in other words, sometimes making a circus of a fair in order to get the people out. Now for two years we have had balloon ascensions. Of course those hold in some localities, but not with us. We have had baby shows, horse trots, and innumerable affairs; but they fail to draw any longer. Now, what shall we do at Wellsboro' to get our share of the patronage, and make our fair a success? I have come clear down here to this meeting to learn, if I can, from the older members, and the secretaries who are older in the service than myself, how to make our fair a success financially and in the attendance. I can say that for the twelve years that I have been secretary we have always paid our expenses, and we have increased our capital stock from nothing to about \$9,000.

You must remember that we are not in the eastern portion of the state where you are so thickly populated, and where you can draw on large cities for an audience. We are among the hemlock stumps as you all know—in the timber district of Pennsylvania—and our societies maintain an existence on the very edge of civilization, the hemlock forests. We have a mile to go between the railroad and fair grounds, either on foot or in public hacks. Thus it is an extra expense to get to the grounds, which is a drawback to us. We charge nothing for carriages to enter our grounds; we charge an annual fee of one dollar to enter, as to our articles of exhibition, and transportation out and in the fair during the four days. Then we have single membership tickets of twenty-five cents. Those are the only tickets we have. With those tickets, as I have said before, we are enabled to pay our running expenses and our premiums.

But that is not all. We want to enlarge our grounds. We want something provided by which we can erect something in the future that we have never had before.

Now my friend W. S. Roland suggests larger premiums. That will do if your attendance will warrant it; if not, you cannot do it. What I suggest is this: What attractive features can the association furnish that will interest the inhabitants, and have them all turn out in a body, as it were, to attend the fair? I do not know; I have heard of attractions. In some localities they have introduced one thing and in some another. But we have had nearly everything in our county, and in the adjoining counties, that we have heard of. There are only two features that we have not introduced,—that is the hippodrome, and the person who rides on horseback against a pack of dogs. I have heard that those were very attractive features.

W. S. ROLAND. Have you ever had any marriages on your grounds?

J. W. MATHER. No sir. But we have had them all around us. (Laughter.) We have had a marriage on the grounds at Bath, and in the counties surrounding us for the last fifteen years. We have had baby shows also, and all those attractions that we can think of.

A GENTLEMAN. When you have those attractions, do you call your exhibition an agricultural fair?

J. W. MATHER. No sir. But I have explained why a formal agricultural exhibition will not draw without something else. There is such a thing as being faired to death, with three weeks fair in one county, and with the same thing in every county adjoining us, it soon gets to be an old story. After a person attends a couple of fairs he does not care about attending any more. That is my experience. Now, how to make these profitable and otherwise a success is what I am here to learn if I can.

I told our officers and directors at the annual meeting, at which I had the misfortune to be elected against my protest, that I would come to this meeting, and when I returned I should have something to tell them, and some ideas for the benefit of our society, and something to have at our next exhibition.

And while speaking of this, I would like to diverge to the question we have just had preceding this—the permanent organization of this branch of agriculture. Many of the secretaries of the different societies of the State could be of immense benefit and value to the societies throughout the state. I can conceive, for one, of the advantage of having a headquarters somewhere, or of having some one to counsel with as to who should be employed as expert judges—some headquarters to go to and find out what attractions we could have during the season—where we could get the best and cheapest printing for the exhibition, and a thousand little things that would be a benefit to the different societies of our commonwealth; and I hope the time may come when other societies in other states will come into it.

Some six years ago there was a very large meeting to organize the societies of this state. For some reason we did not get our societies to take as much interest in it as they should, it may have been on account of the expense of the delegates to the meeting, or, perhaps, something else. Now there are many things to suggest that could be of benefit to all of us, and I am ready and anxious to have any person having ideas on the subject give us the benefit of his knowledge.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I would like to make a remark or two on this subject. First, the people of Pennsylvania who patronize agri-

cultural exhibitions are made up of several classes of people. You cannot expect to run a fair principally or chiefly for one class. Of course, I take it that there should be a good stock exhibit, from the hog up to the horse. The better the introduction, the better the exhibition. Then again we must have a certain amount of amusement. A great many people go for that, especially the young people. Now, the Greeks and the Romans used to have magnificent exhibitions of this kind, and far ahead of anything in our state. They had foot-races, wrestling and athletic contests of every kind, together with rhetorical, poetical and oratorical efforts. And if the colleges in our land—the best colleges in our country—are running wild with boat races and ball playing why may we not introduce ball playing and such things for amusement in connection with the exhibitions of our societies.

Many societies have splendid grounds for base ball and other games. These things, properly conducted, would help to largely increase the attendance. We cannot expect all to be church people. Some will go to be amused in some way, while others will go in order to be amused in other ways. We may, therefore, profitably attempt some amusements of this kind.

Here is Princeton, Yale and Harvard, and all the young men running wild in the way of amusements and base ball. Why should we not admit that into our fair? I think it would form a good attraction.

Now it is needless to ignore the necessity of good horses. A thousand years before the days of Ben Hur, or the Arabian Chief, the horse was looked upon as the noblest of animals, except man; and it is looked upon so yet; and we must admit the horse to be a conspicuous figure of the agricultural exhibition. I am not advocating the betting on races as in the days of Grecian and Roman ascendancy; but I am in favor of giving the horse his proper place in the management and the attractions of the fair.

Now in regard to unsuccessful exhibitions, the beginning is not unfrequently in the judges. A great many fairs fail because they have bad judges. The executive committee meet, and there is nobody there but the committee; and they run away and employ people haphazard, whether they will serve in a competent manner or not. The result is many committees are appointed that will not pay proper attention to their duties, and half of them do not know what they are.

I would suggest, instead of giving all a money premium, it would be a good thing to give a year's subscription to some good agricultural paper. A subscription would result beneficially, on account of a paper visiting a farmer every week in the year, and would educate him and his family; and in the course of the year many papers would be read throughout the county in families, where, otherwise, that paper would not be read at all. I noticed at our last fair, a very fine agricultural exhibit, and I learned from the agents that there was not one in twenty in the county who take an agricultural paper. Now suppose the managers would give a year's subscription to some of those papers, and in that way succeed in educating the people of the county, and making them take more interest in agricultural affairs.

Then you cannot, for just three or four dollars, get people to drive their blooded cattle for more than three or four miles to a fair.

There must be a mixed character of the people who make up a fair, and consequently there should be a variety of amusements. There must be also a variety in fruit as well as in stock. So with agricultural implements, and in exhibits pertaining to mechanics.

In this connection a great mistake is made in some fairs, particularly on the subject of awarding premiums. For instance, at our fair they appoint men as a committee usually to judge upon the butter and dairy products, and on all the different kinds of hand and needlework, or something of that kind. There ought to be a sprinkling of ladies on those committees, and not leave these matters entirely in the hands of the men; and then there should not be the awarding of a dollar premium on an article not worth more than twenty-five cents.

Mr. NICHOLS of Westmoreland county. Before this subject is passed over I wish to say that some of my constituents brought to my notice, before coming here, the subject of judging horses, which has given dissatisfaction in a measure in our county. It has been stated that although they were honest, and good, fair men, they were not competent. The question now is, how can we overcome that objection at our agricultural fairs? This difficulty also arises in the judging of fine stock. We have tried the one-judge system, and it does not seem to be satisfactory.

But I wish to refer more particularly to the point to be discussed in this question, to make our exhibitions attractive, so as to bring the people out, and make the fair a financial success. Now, we might have beer gardens and things of that character. But what we are at is the horse feature, to make it such that the better class of the people will patronize us. Why has it been a curse? Because there are people connected with horse racing who throw it into disfavor. I love a horse almost as well as anything that travels, and so do many of my people; but there are so many demoralizing things connected with horse racing that, with many, it has grown into disfavor. How shall we overcome that?

Then they tell us we cannot be successful without we give large premiums to the horse men. The result is that some of the people who follow this horse racing business are always advanced. They send and bring in what we call "ringers," in common parlance, and they take away the premiums. The farmer comes in with good stock that he has raised himself—stock that he has taken good care to improve, resulting in improved stock in the county—and we probably give him \$10.00. Is it right to ignore the agriculturist? If these exhibitions are for the benefit of the farming class, we should try to see that that object is met. We admit that the exhibition should be attractive; but is it elevating for your daughter or mine to stand before thousands of people as a spectacle, as I saw last fall at a fair, where they hooted and jeered? This sacred ordinance, is it right to make it attractive in that way? I think not. How shall we solve the problem? I must confess I do not know, although I have been taking part in fairs since I was a boy seventeen years old. We should have something to attract, but to make the exhibiting elevating if we can. When we do that, the better class of people will take hold of it, and will help to roll the ball along, and we will stand in a better position than we would by encouraging this low, petty, gambling business which follows horse racing.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. For probably twelve or fifteen years, I have been the secretary of the association in our county. I am satisfied that three organizations cannot exist in one county, because too much rivalry results, and there is no uniformity of action. I would say to the brother whose county is thus afflicted, to go to work and consolidate the organizations.

We have thirty-seven directors—almost two representatives from each

township. They are selected from the best men as vice presidents. We have gentlemen who take an interest in every department of life. Referring to exhibits, we have some horses; we cannot get along without them. While horses are the first attraction in some other societies, I prefer that we should not make them the chief objects. As to betting upon them, we prohibit, rigidly, every species of gambling. We believe we have a right to advance the farmer, as well as the horse man and the stock raiser. Consequently in our organization we try to have the various interests fully represented.

What makes John Wanamaker successful in business? It is certainly the large and varied stock that he has. You can go there and buy anything you want. So with our own success—if we can go and witness the greatest selection and the greatest variety.

Now, then, we want variety in those places. We want the very best horses in the county. Protect your county horses. Make two purses at our county fairs, and give one to the ringers, and watch them closely.

We offer one admission to everybody who brings anything there, no matter how small it is, and we generally have good exhibits.

If you want people to raise stock worthy of an exhibition you must pay them. It is preposterous to expect first-class stock on small premiums. Nobody will exhibit a very valuable animal, with the risk of two or three days' exposure to the atmosphere, and cold sometimes, without having some equivalent. We cannot expect it. To have them come, we must offer liberal premiums. Then judgment and discretion must be used. For that reason, we should not have at our exhibition public shows of marriage, and have a couple swear before high heaven that they will live together as husband and wife. We have divorces enough now. Let us have sufficient interest to warrant the attendance of good stock, and the exhibition of that pertaining to agriculture which will be a benefit and of interest to every farmer. Then let us have amusements of that kind which will be attractive to honest people, and such exhibitions of horsemanship as will be of interest to the masses. Then have first-class music, vocal and instrumental, the very best you can get. Then have something by which all those attending the common schools will be specially interested. Let there be special inducements to come by the offering of premiums for best mathematical work or historical. I am going to introduce this feature in Lebanon county this year; and there will be special offers for exhibits by children. Then, of course, it is understood that we will have fair and impartial judges. Then, by all means, we intend to avoid gambling and side shows. When a man goes to a fair and pays to see a dead alligator, and is fleeced by a three-card-monte man, he becomes disgusted and probably will not return any more. We must rise higher in the morals of the community. Our preachers go to our exhibitions, because we have abolished gambling and the sale of liquors. With the abolition of the immoral features, and the encouragement of the various branches of agriculture, amusement and recreation, I see no reason why we should not have a successful fair, financially and otherwise. We will have the parents and the children there and the latter not on exhibition in baby shows. And I have found that when you attract the ladies and the children, there is no difficulty in securing the attendance of the men. (Applause).

J. W. HARBESON of Lawrence. We are situated in a kind of valley, with a mining and manufacturing community. I think success in an agricultural exhibition depends upon the community in which the fair

is held. Our success comes from improved stock, better farming and the improvement by the people generally of their various farms, enabling them to make a better living, and so on. That is the prime object to be kept in view in holding a fair. The matter of breeding stock is probably the most important industry to be taken into consideration, and that to day is at a point which it has never reached before. It has advanced, step by step, every year, and is getting on a higher plane, and men have more money at interest and invested in stock raising to-day than ever invested in this country. The prices that are paid for breeding now are simply enormous. A short time ago a thorough-bred stallion was sold for \$50,000. To my mind it is not the highest premiums that bring success to our fairs. Men who are breeders, and interested in breeding and producing stock—their idea is to put their stock on the market for sale; and the exhibiting of their stock is not altogether for the paltry premiums. There is not enough given at a fair of our society, in the ordinary run of premiums, to pay for the extra expense of going to a fair and all the ins and outs, if you take the dollars and cents at the exhibition alone into consideration. Why do these men go to the exhibition? They want to show their stock, and convince others that they have better than that which belongs to a neighbor; they want to put their stock before the public in order that they may sell what they produce.

Now, an exhibition of this kind, purely on agricultural principles, with nothing but what it is simply agriculture at such a fair, paying a big premium for pumpkins, dispensing with baby shows and all outside amusements, we cannot maintain uninterruptedly for a hundred years. My observation and experience is this—and I have been engaged more or less in connection with fairs for the past twelve or fifteen years—that if your fairs are conducted on that plan for a few years, they will die down; but after awhile you can bring them up again.

You must get your gate money to pay your premiums. You must do something to draw the public to get your gate money to pay your premiums; and you must be governed largely by the character of your people. You can not have a camp meeting on your fair ground, and nothing else. You must cater to all classes of people in a measure. You must prevent some things, such as gambling—and gambling we have to prevent in our neck of woods at every fair. The consequence is we have all classes of people.

But we must have horse racing. There is no use in disguising that fact. But all horse racing, so far as it is dishonorable, is the fault of the association that permits it on its grounds. It can be controlled by agricultural associations as well as others. If the racing is dishonorably conducted the associations are to blame. There is no reason why rounders should be allowed upon the grounds. Where they are it is the fault of the association itself. If you put incompetent men on the stand, who do not know the rules and regulations, no one can be blamed but the association. An association joining one of the trotting associations, either the American or National, no man can trot his horse on your grounds, and do an irregular or dishonest thing. The trotting can be conducted with just as much propriety as any other part.

Now just one word further in regard to trotting: There is not a county in the state in which there is not a greater or less number of gentlemen engaged in breeding colts—and the breeding of colts is now one of the great industries of the United States. We have proof of

this in almost every county of our own state. But the numbers that have been brought into the state from New York and Kentucky and elsewhere are simply enormous. To encourage the breeding and training of home-raised colts, trots for their special benefit can be gotten for very little money; for the raisers will enter for the purpose of displaying the merits of their stock, rather than for the money. By this means we have another method of adding to the variety in order to get money to pay our premiums.

H. M. ENGLE of Lancaster. As I understand, the convening of this meeting was for the benefit of agriculture generally. Now it is a question with me whether or not there are other things connected with agricultural progress and success than fairs. I have no objections to fairs, when conducted properly. In Lancaster we have two societies, one to hold fairs. I do not know that the latter does anything for agriculture, except to meet annually and make money out of the so-called fair association. The society which I belong to has held several fairs, but they do not hold them annually; but they have met monthly for the last twenty-five years, and have had read essays, and held discussions, and have paid premiums for essays, notices, etc., and have done valuable work in that way. The question is whether this matter might not be brought in also, and the farm community benefited, aside the holding of fairs. My impression is that there are societies holding fairs which do not hold meetings, except about annually, to take their dividends. Others do not hold fairs. Others again hold fairs, and have their public meetings also. I think a great deal can be accomplished by societies that hold no fairs. If they, however, are to be entirely excluded, then the Lancaster county association has no business here to-day, because they have held no exhibitions for years; though I think they are doing more good than the society that holds an annual fair. I think we might switch off the regular track of discussion here, because there are many ways by which agricultural exhibitions are not the alpha and the omega of all counties. But there are so many exhibition societies, it is impossible to rule them out.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. From a remark that was made in the opening of this question, I am supposed to be representing one of the successful agricultural societies of the state (that of Berks county).

I think one of the essentials to conducting an agricultural fair successfully lies in the security, that is, as to conducting honestly, fairly and morally, and, I may say, economically, too, because that is another part. In our county we have succeeded, I might quite well say, in our fairs. The only drawback we have with our fairs is the weather. If we have good weather, we generally succeed in having a good fair, and making a success out of it. Agricultural fairs must be conducted on business principles as well as any other business; and we have got to keep abreast of the times. A merchant will very soon see, if he attends to his business, the kinds of goods that are required. So we have to cater to the public requirements. Some prefer horse racing, some another thing, and some still another; although I find in this state, in a majority of the counties, that horse trotting is one of the main features of the fair. The Montgomery county society, one of the most successful agricultural societies in the country, attributes its success to horse trotting to a great extent.

Talking about premiums for racing or other exhibitions, we try to select men well qualified for the various positions which are assigned to them. We have furthermore, a committee whose special duty it is

to pass upon all matters where there is dissatisfaction, and upon all irregularities. If there are any irregularities in awarding premiums, or whatever it may be, they are brought up before the committee specially appointed for that purpose, and we find that quite an improvement upon the old system.

People, as a general thing, when they think they have been improperly dealt with by the original committee of judges, appeal to the higher court, the same as we do. They find then that they have another and a final decision, and they go home satisfied. Now, it is not the money premium alone that makes a fair attractive and profitable. I find that a great many exhibitors prefer other than money premiums, and, indeed, in some departments they give no money premiums. We find, as a general thing, especially among manufacturers, that they prefer a diploma, for instance. We also give medals for premiums. The diplomas seem to be as desirable as money. They are very cheap, and quite as acceptable, in many instances, as cash.

You have got to introduce into your grounds something that the majority of the people want. I know, talking about horse racing, that clergymen visit our fairs; and I see them at our fair at the horse races, they do not seem to be any worse for it. We do not allow any irregular trotting. We have our rules, and those work very well in regard to horse racing. There is very little talk against it since we have those rules. I think with economy and fair dealing, and introducing new features from time to time—I mean such as are suitable to the occasion, outside of what is immoral—we shall succeed. I think the side shows and flying horses, and so on, are at least an attraction for one class of people—if not for the largest, the smallest. We go to the part of the fair where these old-fashioned plays are, and we find not only children but grown people standing around, who seem to be attracted by the amusement of the younger people. You must, from time to time, introduce something new. If you travel along in the old rut, it is like any other business, and very likely you will not be successful.

W. H. BROSIUS of Lancaster. It seems my friend, Mr. Engle, thinks we have not been up and doing; but I think we have. We have come together and discussed the various things that have been used in agricultural fairs for the purpose of drawing crowds. I have had some experience with my friends, in agricultural matters. It would seem every kind of ingenuity has been exhausted to get people into the gate.

Now this meeting is a necessity, and it is right, and the introduction here of any feature that would help to advance agriculture and agricultural interests would be right.

Why not introduce public questions at our fairs? The farmer has something to do besides raising wheat and corn. He has a responsibility resting upon him—not simply that of showing horses and blooded stock. He wants a market, and value for his products after they are produced. He is a buyer, just the same as others, as well as an exhibitor. Now, then, all of these things bear a certain relation to other things in the city and on the farm, whether he will or not aid and abet those movements which are always a factor in these productions, and always a benefit to them.

Now, there are always questions of state involving the deepest interests of the farmer. Why not gather up the most intelligent men of the county to introduce the tax question, the most important question before the Legislature to day? Why not introduce interests as relating

to other interests; and all those questions that come up for discussion and decision among the farmers and the manufacturers of the state?

Now, I am a farmer, and my whole interest is wrapped up in the farming interest, yet I know that my success depends upon the success of Pennsylvania. I know that all my interests and the productive interests must go hand in hand. And what can you find more interesting than to bring those subjects up for discussion? The farmer has higher interests than showing off stock, or the bringing of babies to the show, or the solemnizing of marriages on the fair grounds, the parties simply to be looked at by the public and made an exhibition of for the vulgar. We have a higher plane to occupy, associated with that dignity which belongs to the true farmer. The men of the community in which we live could be benefited, I think, by coming together and discussing all these questions—I do not mean political; but as they relate to final disposition, or the final place they should occupy among our people.

To-day there is a question pending here on beef—not a question of politics, but a question whether the beef men of Chicago shall kill and furnish the beef for Pennsylvania, or whether the people of Pennsylvania shall kill their own beef and sell it to the consumer. It is not a question of the price of beef, but where that interest should be—whether the people of Pennsylvania, or the beef raisers of the West shall furnish it. It is not a question that comes home to us alone, but to the men in our workshops. These are living questions, and it becomes necessary to discuss them; and, I think, if you discuss them, and intelligently and carefully, there will always be an interest manifested, and a crowd present.

F. M. KEEHAN of Perry. Why not allow each party half a day, and discuss the politics of the country? We would certainly bring out all sides and all shades, and no harm, and perhaps no conclusion.

Mr. KOHLER of York. It has been said wherever the attraction, there the crowd will be. York is no exception, for we have both the grounds and the fair. We have what I claim to be the finest fair grounds in the state, or, at least, so far as I have been able to learn. Now the only trouble with us, after going to the trouble we did to put up such magnificent buildings, and lay out such extensive grounds, with everything pertaining to the grounds that is needed, is to properly accommodate the crowds. We had on Thursday between thirty-five and forty thousand people on the grounds. The attraction was certainly not the exhibition, although the success, so far as the exhibits were concerned, was complete—I may say everything was complete. But the financial is the department to which I wish to address myself. That, I hope, will come up, and that we shall have plenty of time for its consideration.

We allow no gambling or liquor of any kind on the grounds; and if a man comes in there and gets drunk from his pocket flask we eject him. We do not allow anything immoral on the grounds after we find it out. We have a party to whom everything objectionable is referred, and everybody goes to him.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. I think the gentleman from Berks comes as near striking the keynote as any gentlemen of my knowledge, with the experience I have had. What would be a success in one particular locality, would be a decided failure in another. As he has very truthfully said, you must cater to the wishes and desires of the community if you expect to have them at the fair. And I scarcely know how better to do that than to have every department germane to agriculture a success. And if we choose to have something after that that is not

essential to agriculture, I say allow us to have it. They tell you that the horse drives the people away from the fair. I you want the most successful fair that has ever been held in Pennsylvania next September, you will have Maud S. You will see more people there, no matter how rural the district, than have ever been seen there before. The horse that travels the fastest brings the crowd. There does not seem to be much difference between the one and the other, you have to wait only a little longer to get there. But not so in drawing a crowd. When you go above a certain figure, as to attracting a crowd, it makes little difference whether the horse travels in three minutes, or whether he travels a mile an hour. But when you use a horse for your own private purposes, it makes some difference whether he is a slow traveler or a fast one. It is always desirable for a man traveling to church, even, to get there with all the commandments intact. There it is not the horse that is damaged, it is the man. The horse is all right, just as correct as the cow that gives a bucket of milk, and as honest. We must have some attractive features at the fair, and some features that, if possible, has not been too long somewhere else. If it has been too long at one place, it is not likely to take at another. But you cannot always blame the fair management for that. Take the Berks and York, and last, but not least, the fair at Mount Holly.

I think every one who knows any thing about the fair at Mount Holly will acknowledge that it has always been a success. What is a successful agricultural exhibition? It is one that has every department full and that pays the premiums it promises to pay. It is not a successful agricultural fair that runs up a bank account. We want to pay as we go. That money is used for the purpose of paying premiums whereby to encourage those engaged in agriculture, manufacturing and machinery making. Then when the departments are full, you have gone so far towards making the fair a success. I know of farmers in our section of country who want to go to see the latest and best improvements in agricultural machinery; and I cannot conceive of a fair more successful, than the one that is full in all the various departments.

Mr. KOHLER of York. Our track is laid out on the plan of the National Trotting Association, and we are also a member of that organization. That brings us within the rules of the association; consequently we cannot have very much wrong about it. We are not a stock concern, but we are a mutual arrangement, and all the money we put into the concern we put in to advance it.

J. A. GUNDY of Union. I represent one of the smallest counties in this state; and I attended last year the fair of one of the largest counties in this state. I think these two counties are among the oldest organized for agricultural purposes in the commonwealth. Our next fair I think will be the thirty-third or thirty-fourth annual exhibition. We have missed but one fair during all that time—that was during the war. We have never scaled the premium list, or discounted in any way. We pay in full. We have no large town to back us. We have competing fairs within four miles of us, in an adjoining county. We have one annual exhibition within four miles of us in another direction, another within fifteen miles of us in a still different direction, and about fifteen miles from us in another direction there is still another. We are in an agricultural district.

I think it is but fair to show both extremes. The York county people have a large city back of it. I was there when they had thirty-five thousand people on the ground. I think we had but one drunken man.

I happened to have a badge on that looked like an officer's; and I was persuaded to speak to him, and he went away. There was no disorderly conduct. There was no occasion for anything like arrests. We have no gambling. We have horse racing, but that does not cost much, being honestly conducted. Five horses entered, and they paid for the premium list. Did you ever think of it? And then you take some money off the grand stand. Some go there on purpose. Then there is a little more revenue from the hucksters. Thus in the end it does not cost much.

The question has occurred to my mind whether, in some other department than horse racing, it would not be the best plan to charge a fee for admission for the purse. It has been my experience that when a man does not pay for anything, it is not appreciated as much as otherwise. I had a friend who paid an extraordinarily high price for potatoes. He said the only consolation was, if a man paid a higher price, he would take better care of them, and in the end lose nothing. I think perhaps it would be a good plan to charge a pretty good entrance fee to compete for a premium. We would then have a better class of exhibits all around.

I like my friend's suggestion with reference to interesting the schools. They would work a little better if they had a little money interested in it.

W. S. ROLAND of York. Is your society a stock company?

J. A. GUNDY of Union. Our society is a stock company, but we cannot declare any dividends. All we make we must expend on our grounds. Never had much to expend on the grounds, that I know of. We do not have any questionable exhibitions on the ground. You give people good goods and they will come and see them. A little printer's ink does not do any harm. Our exhibitions run down, and we start on a new plan. We go and ask the neighborhood editors to put in local notices, and pay them so much a line, and have some fellow to write them up so they will be mistaken for the editor's talk. We fooled the judge of our court on that. He met me one day, and said "you are going to have a first-rate fair. The neighborhood papers are full of it." He did not know that I was writing the articles.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. What is the price of admission?

J. A. GUNDY of Union. Twenty-five cents.

W. W. PARKER of Chester. I represent a society that is at present in a discouraged condition. It has been holding exhibitions twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. We have about exhausted our resources in contriving plans to attract the people. As I said, we have become somewhat discouraged; and I have been sent here to confer with those who have had experience in regard to these matters. I am glad that the time on the subject you have under discussion was extended before this meeting, because I think it is one of the most important, perhaps, on this schedule, if not the most important. I believe we can learn more from the experience we have had, than in any other way. I was glad when these gentlemen got up and gave their experience in the management of fairs at home. Our experience has not resulted so successfully as others. We have done everything in our power to make our fairs attractive. We have had all the departments well filled, and I think we have had as good exhibition of material as are had anywhere in the state. We have gone to considerable expense in preparing of suitable buildings. We have expended quite a great deal of money in getting up a very large building for the extensive exhibi-

tion of flowers and plants, and have had it filled with as good an exhibition as I have ever seen in that department at any fair. Still we cannot get our money drawers filled. When it comes to counting up, at the end of our exhibition, we have a deficiency. Our premiums have not been as high as we would like to make them in the various departments. We have a pretty good track, and have tried to cater to this interest in the trotting of horses; but, it seems to me now, that our people are tired even of that. It fails to attract them any more. At our last fair we had Professor Greason, and advertised his appearance largely. I believe if it had not been for him, we would have had a very small attendance. We had a large amount of track trotting, all varieties. We had bicycle contests, milk-wagon races, and everything of that kind, that any fair has ever tried. But still we failed to attract our citizens. We have a peculiar class of citizens to interest.

J. A. GUNDY of Union. How much did you offer to pay on the trotting?

W. W. PARKER of Chester. From \$200 to \$500 in the different races, according to the time they made. One trouble, probably, with us is that our people have the facilities for attending races of a great deal higher character near the city of Philadelphia. We have the Belmont Park, the Suffolk Park and the Gentlemen's Driving Park, where much larger premiums are offered, and where they have much fleetier horses than we can afford to pay for. Thus our citizens who are interested in this class of attractions, take advantage of the opportunity of attending those outside entertainments; and we are left behind, because we cannot give them as attractive entertainments in that line.

But I came here more particularly to get the experience of those men who have been running their societies successfully, and, I believe, I have been able to gain some few ideas, but not so many as I would like.

We are a stock organization—we have shares of stock held by different individuals, and we pay dividends;—but, unfortunately, we pay our dividends before we earn them. Under the organization of our society it was arranged that a party holding stock should be entitled to admission for himself and family under twelve years of age. In that way we are paying an extremely high dividend upon the amount of our profits, before we earn any of them. It is an objection, and a considerable drawback to us, no doubt. Last year at our exhibition we had considerable of a crowd, but when we came to count the money in the drawer it amounted to very little. When we take into consideration the number of stockholders, the number of exhibitors, agents, attendants and a number employed to do work on the ground, we have little left in the way of profits.

The PRESIDENT. Do you remember how many stockholders you have?

Mr. PARKER. I think we have twelve hundred shares of stock, and I presume there are about five hundred stockholders.

Dr. ROLAND of York. Your track is a figure eight?

Mr. PARKER. Yes sir.

Dr. ROLAND. It is no wonder you have trouble to get good parties to have their horses trot on it.

Mr. PARKER. We have no trouble about getting owners of horses to trot their animals on it. But we have three exhibitions in Chester county—one in Oxford, one on the north, near Montgomery county, and one at West Chester and the state fair is held at Philadelphia.

I. GARRETSON of Adams. The success of fairs simply depends upon

the kinds of goods offered, and it greatly depends on how they are measured out. The men who measure out the good goods are the men to determine on the existence.

I have had some experience in the fair business. I think that the man that goes to some of the fairs outside of his county stands a very poor chance of getting a premium on his stock, let it be ever so much superior to his competitors. But I know one fair at which I got justice, and every body else. But often, it matters not how well we prepare our stock, or what kind of exhibits we make, they obtain incompetent judges—and they are the men or women that break down our fairs. It is all summed up in one word—favoritism.

Exhibitors are not slow to determine or decide upon the merits of stock, whether the man exhibits swine, sheep, cattle or horses. A man who has become an expert in raising stock certainly must be a judge of what constitutes an animal of a good class.

He is not slow in going around to see what they have there. He will see, if he is not behind the times, what stock is on exhibition besides his own. Then, if the judges deal honestly, so far as he is concerned the fair will prosper. Unfortunately last fall I was a judge at a fair, and I had an opportunity of finding out afterwards who were practicing unfair things. Just so sure as those practices are continued, that surely will that association go down. The people will not suffer it. They will not only not tolerate it, but they will not go there to exhibit. I think honesty is the ground work of a fair. You may offer as liberal premiums as you please, but unless the exhibition is fairly conducted, the people who go there will say "I doubt if I will get justice."

In the selection of judges, great care should be used in selecting persons who have no favorites. The premiums should be awarded honestly, fairly and justly, without fear or favor. This unfairness, I think, has a greater tendency to break down fairs than anything else. The sharper the competition the better the stock. Men soon find that it is not worth while to go and exhibit stock, if they are not to be justly dealt with. The more fairly and honestly the premiums are dealt out, the better will be the fair.

What system of general admission tickets will best protect the society from fraud? Should exhibitor's tickets be issued, and, if so, how can they be arranged so as to prevent their fraudulent use? Should passes be used, and, if so, how guarded against their improper transfer and use?

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I have discovered that on every question that has been brought up for the consideration of this body it was a little slow in getting started. "What system of general admission tickets will best protect the society from fraud, and, should exhibitors' tickets be issued, and, if so, how can they be arranged so as to prevent their fraudulent transfer and use?" Now, those two I will consider together. So far as the issuing of passes to exhibitors—what we call helpers' passes—is a subject similar to the subject 2 and 3, and yet it is a part of the same subject.

Our society has used almost every kind of ticket, from the family ticket that costs \$1.50, that will admit to the ground his wife and children, the cousins and aunts, and all visiting friends that come, so that all the members of the family number about eighteen to twenty, and

the single admission membership ticket, from that to the exhibitors' ticket, and the single admission ticket, and no other used during the fair. All those tickets we have used. Now, as to results, the most practical tickets we have used in our society, and from which the most money has been derived, are two: First, the single admission ticket, and the twenty-five cents for each admission, the tickets being taken up as they pass into the ground. And then for the exhibitor, who pays a dollar, which admits him as an exhibitor; and he comes and goes. Upon that ticket he makes the entrance, one or more, whatever he deems best to admit for exhibition. That ticket has a full statement of what he agrees to do, and upon entering and leaving the ground, and while upon the grounds as an exhibitor. On the face of this ticket is written the name of the society and the name of the holder, and the number of the ticket, from one to two thousand consecutively. That name is put upon the register of the society, and the number corresponds with the number on the ticket; and then on the bottom of the ticket for the second day are ten squares—on about the edge of the ticket—and on the front of that line is the word "in," and the next line below is "out." Indicating to the gate-keeper when the holder comes in what the gate-keeper is to do, and he will punch one of the squares; and one of the squares also when the holder goes out. So that every time he comes in the gate the ticket is punched, and every time he goes out.

That I introduced in our society, knowing the fact that a man will buy a dollar ticket, and not having a boiler iron fence, with pickets above and beyond a mans' reach, but on the other hand with cracks in our board fence that we could not cover up, and holes under the fence which were not always filled in. Now and then an official with a complimentary ticket, or a holder of an exhibitor's ticket, had some friend who would find out that there was a crack or a hole in the board fence, and this ticket would be passed out into somebody's hand, and that would be repeated. I had a policeman watch one that went out five times in one day. To obviate that I had these tickets punched. Every gate-keeper has a punch for his use alone. One will be lettered P, and one K, and one R, so that every gate-keeper has a different kind of punch; and no matter what gate the holder of the ticket goes in, I can go to that gate-keeper, knowing where it was presented. If that ticket is presented the second time on the same day, I know it has gone through the fence. Then the question arises, "have you got your ticket?" Yes sir. "Did you go out to-day?" No sir. There is either a ticket that lies, or shows he has gone out of the ground; and he must explain why he did not have his ticket punched. And so on for a number of times during the day. And so the third and fourth day. So that there is a check on that ticket for every time he goes out and in. Of course we have been there so long we know every man nearly in the county; and almost every man who buys a ticket we know more or less about. If the ticket is found by any person who does not own it, it is taken up, and the person made to pay for the admission for the day. That is the plan we have adopted and it is the most satisfactory we have ever used for getting money out of the crowd.

T. WALTER of Chester. What does your society charge for these tickets?

Mr. MATHER. One dollar.

J. WALTER of Chester. I can agree with the gentleman. The exhibitor has to be cared for as well as the man who does not exhibit. In some localities the exhibitor is charged with that ticket, and I think the

money is refunded to him at the end of the exhibition. I am glad the gentleman has helped us out.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. This ticket is a membership ticket for the year. We charge nothing for the exhibits. According to the charter of our organization, any person holding an annual membership ticket, for which he pays one dollar, is entitled to enter any article for premium he deems proper, and to go out and in as he pleases, and to vote at all meetings of the societies.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. I think there is a very limited way and manner of issuing tickets in order to make a thing pay. We have two hundred stockholders, and we issue but two tickets yearly, one which will admit them, and no other person, none of the family. Then we have adopted the twenty-five cent ticket. We give to every exhibitor one admission ticket. We issue only two kinds of tickets, a general admission and the stockholders. The latter of course are known, and are gentlemen, and it is proper, we believe, to give them out to them. Among the rest twenty-five cent tickets and ten cents for children. Consequently we have no demoralizing results. Of course in Berks and York counties they have life memberships; but I think tickets can be issued to them and used without deception or fraud. It is the general class that are likely to give the trouble and difficulty, men who want to go into the fair, and in order to get in as cheaply as possible will surreptitiously pass their ticket out to somebody else. Sometimes I think it is a dangerous thing to sell a ticket to anybody, let them pay a quarter as they enter the ground.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. We deal altogether in twenty-five cent ticket; we issue no passes whatever. We send off and buy tickets for each day of the fair, and sell those tickets for twenty-five cents. We allow the exhibitors for their horses, and for themselves, on their coming to the grounds, when they want to get into the grounds. When an exhibitor wants to go out, he can give his knife, or something else; but there is no punching of tickets, or anything of that kind about it. The ticket seller stands near the gate, and sells his tickets at twenty-five cents each. There they buy their tickets, and they go to the gate-keeper who takes them up, and that is the end of the ticket business. We charge twenty-five cents for a single or double team, and twenty-five cents for each man each day of the fair. We think that is the only successful way we can run a fair. It seems to be generally satisfactory, and is accepted by the people.

JOHN HOFFA of Northumberland. We have no dead-heads. When a person comes to exhibit he pays one dollar, and then can exhibit as much as he pleases, if it is twenty different articles. We then give him a number of tickets. Every time he goes in he gives a ticket to the party at the gate. We do not care who uses that ticket. When those tickets are all used, he is treated like everybody else. Every one who goes in pays twenty-five cents for the ticket.

CHANDLEE EVES of Columbia. Mr. White, of Columbia county, the secretary of the Columbia County Agricultural Society, is in the room, and I would like hear him tell of the manner of handling tickets for that organization.

H. V. WHITE of Columbia. I have been connected with our society for nine years. The society started with the system of selling tickets, selling what was known as a family ticket to the head of the family, to admit himself and family, either in a wagon or buggy, as many times as they thought fit to visit the fair. Outside of that we sold a ticket

for twenty-five cents to the individual asking for it. These twenty-five cent tickets were sold to exhibitors, five for a dollar originally. The exhibitor, by paying a dollar, got the privilege of exhibiting as many articles as he chose. The five tickets he could turn over to as many as he thought proper. This plan was found to be a failure, and we adopted the principle of selling to every individual for twenty-five cents, and that is the only ticket we use to-day.

We sell to the exhibitor, for one dollar five tickets, in connection with his exhibit, and they are taken up at the gate. We have no stockholders. Our society was chartered under the act of 1887. We took out a charter which grants only membership, but no stock and no dividends. Consequently we have no particular favors. We have no passes to persons going out and in again. Persons going out must pay to be admitted again, no matter how many times a day.

Our society was organized in 1855, but ran, up to 1874, on a leased piece of land. In 1874 we adopted a new system, and at that time there was less than four hundred dollars in the treasury. Since that time we have purchased ground to the amount of \$10,000, and made improvements amounting to over \$20,000, besides enlarging our expense account by additional premiums every year to this extent: In 1874 he premiums paid amounted to \$620, and in 1888 to \$3,065; and we are now in debt less than \$900, the major part of it being caused by falling off in attendance. We had good weather the fore part of the week, with large entries, large premiums, and a fair attendance. The last three days of the fair it rained continually, sometimes raining in torrents, and this left us somewhat in debt. A part of the debt was incurred by the erection of a large exhibition building, that we have not yet wholly paid for.

CHANDLEE EVES of Columbia. What is the price for admission for vehicles?

H. V. WHITE. We charge twenty-five cents for vehicles, single horse or two; and persons passing on horse-back twenty cents.

MR. REYNOLDS of Chester. Do you charge a license for a person that has goods on sale.

H. V. WHITE. We have what is known as a fakirs' license. A man to get such a privilege must pay a license fee, and he pays it by the square foot—five squares make one helper, and each additional a helper, and that entitles him to so many passes; and each one is passed every day. But the helper must wear a badge, and the exhibitor must also. Any person who presents a proper pass on the day, wearing the badge, would be admitted, and the pass taken up. For people who exhibit machinery we pay no premiums. We allow them space, but we grant them no premiums. We give a pass that admits them once a day. After that, if they go out they come in again on the payment of twenty-five cents.

Secretary EDGE. While it is not exactly in place, what is the result of their surrendering their charter, and taking up a new one? Has it been satisfactory or not?

MR. WHITE. We hardly know. We have gained our purpose only partially. We hope to complete our arrangements. We are resisting the taxation of our grounds, that is, under our new charter. It will probably be a test case. We have notice to pay all the State and county taxes. We contend that, under the act of 1887, we are an institution of learning, for the benefit of the farmer and community in general, and that we should not be taxed. I as secretary and attorney

of the association, have taken that ground, and refused thus far to pay the tax.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. If there are any organizations holding exhibitions within city limits they are liable to be subject to city ordinances. The mayor of the city of Lebanon called upon me and upon our superintendent, and demanded that each of the men who were fakirs should pay a city license, and threatened to sue the society in case the license was not paid. There will likely be test case. Whether the city of Lebanon can recover from the gentlemen whom we license a city license, and thus compel the fakirs to pay both to the agricultural society and to the city, is a question. I refer to this for the reason that there are perhaps other associations that hold exhibitions within the limits of a city.

Mr. HARBESON of Lawrence. We have had some experience. Our authorities tried to charge a second license.

L. P. HECKER of Lehigh. A question was asked, How to overcome the difficulty of issuing helpers' tickets? The one part of this question we have solved. We have had the old one-dollar-ticket system for many years, and we tried to get that out of the way by using—having adopted it four or five years ago—by using the coupon system; and every time an individual entered the ground one coupon was taken off. In order to satisfy our people we had to give permission to detach the coupons and pass them to other people; and in that way frequently the coupons were sold, and we did not derive the benefit from that system that we expected. Two years ago we prepared a ticket similar to Mr. Mathers'. The exhibitors have to pay one dollar, and then they can exhibit as many things as they desire, and their family; and then they are presented with a single ticket which is to be punched. The first half day of the fair we permit the exhibitor to go in and out free. After that each time the ticket is presented by the exhibitor one of the numbers is punched. Each ticket is provided with eight numbers.

But now a difficulty has arisen. Exhibitors demand helpers' ticket. For two or three head of cattle, or two or three horses, he wants a ticket for two or three helpers; and so with parties exhibiting agricultural machinery. We have been greatly embarrassed by the fact that so many of these exhibitors demand helpers' tickets. We have endeavored to reform this. We have distributed so many helpers' tickets requiring the exhibitor to give the names of the helpers, and the name to go on the helpers' ticket. But it is a great difficulty to determine to whom that helpers' ticket was issued, when he comes the second day. We do not issue any passes, but these helpers' tickets are not limited, and consequently we do not know whether they can be passed from one exhibitor to another.

There is another difficulty against which we have to contend, but that cannot be overcome. So far as our society is concerned it has about seven hundred and fifty stockholders, and we issue annually, as the constitution provides, membership tickets, and they provide for the admission of the member and the family under twenty-one years, and of course in that way a great many enter our grounds that do not pay. That difficulty we cannot overcome. This other one we are striving to overcome as far as we can. But, of course, we have made progress in getting that old dollar ticket out of the way. For many years the stockholders fought against us overcoming that difficulty, but finally, by showing that the nuisance was so great that we had to do something, we were able to abolish that system.

CYRUS T. FOX of Berks. As secretary of one of the successful societies referred to here to-day, I would report that we long ago discarded the family ticket system. We have but one ticket for general admission purposes. The twenty-five cent ticket admits all except the small children. We do not punch the ticket when the ticket-holder goes out, for the reason that we would not have punches enough to do the work, as they all want to go out at once. But we have the exhibitor's name on the register; we know who our exhibitors are. The ticket has six numbers on, and good for six admissions; and the tickets are not punched the first day of the fair. It is understood that on the first day of the fair the exhibits shall be arranged, and then the tickets shall be shown at the gate, that after the first day of the fair the tickets shall be punched each time. But we have on those tickets numbers from one to six. It was at first eight, but reduced to six so that we have a ticket good for the gate in the morning and then one in the afternoon.

Now then as to exhibitors requiring helpers' tickets, we have made this arrangement after the numbers are exhausted or punched out; They apply to the president, and the president keeps a register of all the tickets issued. Thus everybody who applies has the ticket registered against him.

We also have the tickets in different colors for each day, and they are printed in such a way as not to be imitated.

All parties who obtain license on our grounds are entitled to privileged tickets. They are entitled to a number, according to what they pay, if they pay five dollars, two tickets; ten dollars, four tickets, and so on up to one hundred dollars. This has been our system for the last four years, and it has been found to work admirably.

But the greatest difficulty we have experienced has been with regard to life membership tickets. Just as Mr. Hecker said, we have two hundred and sixty-five life members, and we now require that a life member appearing at the gate shall present his ticket, and we have each turn-stile keeper provided with a list of life members, to which he can refer.

We discovered that our life memberships were becoming much too cheap—we were charging ten dollars—last year we increased the amount to twenty dollars and we have increased the annual membership to two dollars.

W. W. PARKER of Chester. Have you two separate gates for the two kinds of tickets; or do you admit the exhibitors and the parties buying single tickets at the same gate?

CYRUS T. FOX. We have separate turn-stiles for the general admission people, and separate turn-stiles for the members. We are out of our old grounds and will be in the new grounds during the coming fair, where we expect to provide different gates for the different classes of admission.

W. W. PARKER of Chester. I was hoping we would bring out the advantages of the turn-stile at our different fairs. We have been talking about them, and we were very much in hopes we would get some information here.

L. P. HECKER of Lehigh. All I have to say is that they have worked very satisfactorily with us. We have four turn-stiles. We use one set for the admission of the members and the exhibitors, and the others for the single admissions. Thereby we can ascertain at the end of each day how many have passed through the single admission gates, how much money, and how many tickets have been sold, and whether these

correspond. In that way the turn-stiles have proved a check upon the clerks selling the tickets. Of course we cannot ascertain always in that way, for more people buy tickets than use them. But it is a check, and we have used them for the last four years.

Our grounds there might be somewhat improved. We might have a turn-stile for the exhibitors alone, and another one for the life members, but our grounds are so situated that we could not do that. As I said, it has been so far arranged that the exhibitors and life members have passed in through one turn-stile, and the single admissions have gone in elsewhere. We use one as long as they can pass through, and then two, and finally three. That is, on Thursdays, we have to use, for a few hours probably, the three turn-stiles for single admission tickets.

A GENTLEMAN. How about the driving?

L. P. HECKER. We drive into the grounds. We cannot regulate the stiles in regard to that. We have to charge them in their carriages.

The GENTLEMAN. Of that gate you cannot keep an account?

L. P. HECKER. No, sir.

The GENTLEMAN. As to the expense of the turn-stiles, would you please tell us?

L. P. HECKER. They charge us about forty-five dollars apiece—the five about \$225—besides putting them up, and the gates we have prepared. To buy five turn-stiles, and put them up ready for work, costs less than \$300.

Dr. J. P. BARNES. This question has now been thoroughly discussed, and I think it would be well if the members would come to some definite conclusion in regard to the subject. I have had some experience in regard to his difficulty, and I have come to the same conclusion that our Secretary Edge has, and that is to have one single admission ticket, which will overcome the difficulty, and not allow so many varieties of single tickets. Then allow the exhibitors and life members so many. Then every time he goes in the ticket is taken up. There would be no trouble then about admission, and the number could soon be cast up. If the sentiment of the meeting is the same as that of the chair and of the secretary, we can have little difficulty in taking some action which will define our position upon this important question.

What system of entries is most desirable and convenient for secretaries and judges? Should the name of the exhibitor be placed on the entry card, and should the judges know the names of the exhibitors?

I. GARRETSON of Adams. I would answer to the question, "should the name of the exhibitor be placed upon the entry card? I would say no. And "should judges know the names of the exhibitors? I would say it would be better if they did not. Oftentimes it has a better bearing if the judges go only by numbers. The judges ought not to know the exhibitor in any way. Under such circumstances I would think it more likely that the judges would award a fair decision.

CHANDLEE EVES of Columbia. But we do not hold agricultural societies just for the sake of awarding premiums, and to have judges blindfolded so that they awarded them properly; we hold them for another purpose, to get people interested in the exhibits, and to learn something from them. If I knew the names of the exhibitors I would take more interest, I think, in the exhibition. Where numbers are

used we know nothing about them. I say the names and the address ought to be on the article, I do not care who exhibits them, the judge will find out any how. I know I would take more interest, and my family would take more interest, if they knew whose silk quilts were exhibited there. And so with an animal, if they could follow him up and remember him by the owner and in no other way.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. I know some years ago, after the society had obtained a solid footing, we thought it would be better to not have the name appear; but we have found differently; and now have the name instead of the number. In the first place, many people exhibit their things to advertise them as well as compete; and in order to bring their goods to the notice of the people it has got to be done either by having the name on the card or putting a notice up. Again a great many people come to the fair purposely to see who are exhibiting from their neighborhood, and in stock, and in many other things, we found the best way was to fall back and name the exhibits with the owner's name and the number. In my travels to other societies I find that the majority of them have the same experience we have had. It is true in York and in Pottstown they consider by numbers, but at the majority of fairs they have got back to the old rule of attaching names. In our society we lost by using only numbers.

SAMUEL McCREARY of Lawrence. I think if the names were placed on the articles there would be no more brindle cows entered at Devons.

Mr. McDOWELL. What county was that in?

SAMUEL McCREARY of Lawrence. A county north of Lawrence. (Laughter.) If the name of the exhibitor had been on the card, it would not have been done. I am in favor of putting the name on the card.

Mr. McKEAN. I would say for convenience, and, too, for the secretary and clerks, the number is preferable; but the exhibitor I think should have the right to place his name upon the tag. Often there is a great rush to enter the exhibits. I have had some experience since 1851 with fairs, and I have found that at times there is a considerable rush. Names are not so easily and readily spelled, and not so quickly put down as numbers or letters; and when names are used they are mostly misspelled, as you are aware. Let the figures be put down by the officer, and then let the exhibitor place his name, if he chooses to adopt that plan.

H. V. WHITE of Columbia. Our society has tried both methods and they came to the conclusion that the numerical method was the better, until they elected me secretary, and they were not required to do so much writing. Since then they have concluded we ought to adopt names. Last fall there were four thousand three hundred and twenty entries, and it took a force of clerks that filled the room to write the names. By the numerical system the making of the entry is very short work, as we do not put the name but the number on the card.

We employ an expert on the stock. If there is a brindle cow entered for a Devon, they know that such an animal does not appear on the premium list. Our cows are placed on exhibition on Wednesday morning, and Thursday morning the judges pass upon them; and they are expected to finish their work by two o'clock. After that time the exhibitors are permitted to put anything upon them, including their card, if they choose. If the name appears upon the card at the time of the judging, the judges pass the exhibit by without any notice. The judges

have such instructions, and they are also published in the premium book. We find that the judges will be partial when they know to whom the goods belong, especially in domestic manufactures, where we had as many as 1,800 entries in one small lot. If they have a neighbor there who has an article not quite so good as a party's they do not know, they will give it to that neighbor. The reports of the committees on awards have been more satisfactory under this system of numbers than the old. Our entries are increasing every year and the list is increasing. While our friend from Columbia county (Mr. Eves) would sooner see the names on the card, I think that he is an exception, and that the public in our county is in favor of the numbers. It certainly is a more convenient system for the officers and for the society.

W. S. ROLAND of York. In my society we enter by numbers, and we get along a great deal better in that way than we did under the old system. Half a dozen competent clerks will do the business requiring fifteen or twenty reading out the names of the exhibitors, and less than one half the time. Besides, I believe that a good many exhibit because their names are not mentioned. Our judges have been selected in those departments because they do not know who they are giving to; and we get along better and more comfortably than we did under the old system.

A. C. SISSON of Lackawanna. I think they get along better with the numbers than the names. If I have the second premium card I do not care to have my name upon that exhibit. I should be in favor of the numbers.

Robt. McKEE of Mercer. There is not near the difference that some people imagine there is in the two plans. I will venture to say that the judges, as a general thing, in our fairs, know whose stock they are judging whether by numbers or not. In our place as a general thing the stalls are taken and marked, and if they do not ascertain it in that way, some one has a friend who is good enough to mention that those particular cattle, whether Devon or other kind, belong to Judson, or some one else. They find it out, and it would be better to get the name directly I believe.

In exhibiting at fairs there are some things done that are not profitable. As my friend says they enter brindle cows in our county for Devons. It is true that at one time a mean set of individuals came into our county grounds and entered one lot of brindle cattle for Devons, but they had but one lot. They drove their cattle into the fair grounds, Durham and brindle, and finding no Devon cattle there, they tried for Devon with their brindle. That was done by persons in our county who were considered pretty wise. I was one of the judges, and when we came to decide we found they were not eligible to any premium at all. They were mixed with the Durham, but tied with different cards on them. We gave them no premium whatever.

I think, after seeing the two plans used, it is just as well to put your name on plainly as figures. If the judges are honest, they will do their work as fairly as if told that certain cattle belong to certain individuals; and it is likely, I think, that they will do their work more guardedly and carefully.

J. A. GUNDY. Do you require a certificate for thoroughbreds?

ROBT. McKEE. Yes, sir.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I prefer Allen's entry book for my own convenience and use, that is as a book for entries. The name, number and article are written in as one whole book. When that leaf is filled it is

turned over, and another entry made with the name and number of the next article; and the number corresponds with the name of the owner and the article exhibited. When the entries are closed, that book is cut in two, and half of the book, with the name of the article and the number, is given to the committee. The names are retained and post-office addresses of the owners are kept by the secretary. The committee know nothing about to whom these articles belong from anything that they see on the committee book.

Now, it is so easy of course to make a mistake in numbers. I can appreciate how, with a wrong number, where you have expert judges, men who are perfectly familiar with all of the entries, they can pick out the cattle; but if there are located in the exhibits "two-year olds" for heifers, or the yearling Alderneys are all put together, or put in one pen to be inspected by the committee, or altogether for inspection, as they do at some fairs, they might not be able to determine. But we do not do that. Persons attending the stock say "I cannot leave my stock," and the committee have to examine around, and inspect them the best they can. This committee has the name of the animal on the entry card, and they also have the same name in the committee book with the corresponding number. A yearling bull is numbered 200 on the entry card; also in the committee book. If it corresponds, they judge by that, the number on the card and the number in the committee book.

Now, then, so far as judging the stock is concerned, I do not see any difference whether you judge by the number or the name of the family or article. Judges should be appointed, and not advertised in the premium list. I know for several years we had the practice in our county of placing the name of the committee at the head of the list of premiums of each department of the premium list. I observed that those members of the committee that smoked had a pocketfull of cigars, and those who received other attentions from exhibitors were busy; and it was a great inducement for exhibitors to interfere with the committee, and try to convince them that their stock or articles were much superior to the other stock or articles on the ground. So we refrained from advertising the names of the committee until they were on the ground. Then members of the society were selected for the year, they having more interest, as we thought, in judging the articles and stock justly than if paid twenty-five cents for admission to the fair and no interest in it. But we have already changed that, by employing expert judges, employing a man out of the locality especially to judge the stock, cattle and swine, so that our exhibitors shall not find fault with partiality of the judges in determining upon articles on exhibition. A gentleman whose business it is to breed stock, sheep, cattle and poultry, attends the fair, and he has made the acquaintance of the exhibitors as well as the products. He may also be an exhibitor. That man comes to the office and says, "I want my business card fastened up near my stock." He does not care who knows his stock. He wants it known.

But of course there are domestic articles that ladies bring to a fair that are brought year after year in some instances, and where, especially if ladies are on the committee, the exhibitors should not be known. Yet they get to know them. If a lady manufactures a nice afghan, or piece of fancy work, every lady knows it before the close of the fair; and they will say "that belongs to Mrs. Jones; I saw her making it." "This belongs to Mrs. Smith; I was at her house when she was making

that." And before the fair is over they know the exhibitor's work, and likely have made up their minds how to determine.

Then the judges should not be known in advance for another reason. Frequently if they are they will say something like this: "Now, Mr. Mather, just see here, just one minute. We have given Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Smith premiums on her many articles. Now why can we not give Mrs. Brown a premium on her article? We know it is not quite so good; but Mrs. Jones has so many—why not give Mrs. Brown a premium?" I never knew an exhibition but that everybody that wanted to know could find out to whom certain articles belonged. Last fall I was at a neighboring fair, and saw a very handsome cow. I wanted to get the name and postoffice address of the owner of that animal. There was no card on the stall. Nobody interested in her seemed to be close by. I said to a gentleman "who owns that stock?" "Mr. Stray of Sylvania." No card up, and yet that man seemed to know who the stock belonged to, no trouble in finding out. If a person exhibits stock for the purpose of selling or introducing it to make a profit on it, why of course that man wants it known; and I do not see any objection, if you have competent judges, whether it is known or not.

I. GARRETSON of Adams. I do not see that there is any difference whether the judges who go before the people are not known, or the people not known to the judges. Now if we go as judges, and for a week before the exhibition we are not to be known by the exhibitors, I think, under the circumstances, that the exhibitors should not be known by us. I think one is just equally as fair as the other. If we must go in disguise, or in secrecy to a fair, or we not known to be judges—that we must be concealed so much—why it seems to me there is something not fair about it.

I look at it in this light: Unfortunately or otherwise, I have been a judge at one of our prosperous society's fairs for many years. We judge there by numbers, and I greatly prefer it. That society is flourishing, and it is in evidence that it is very prosperous. After the judges have awarded their decisions, there is no hindrance to the exhibitors putting their names on the cards and putting them up. I do greatly prefer judging by numbers. It is more quickly done, and it is not embarrassing. When I go out as a judge I want to know no one. I want to be left alone, and decide on the merits of the exhibits. It is a very fair way of starting out in the path of duty, and I think there can be no objection to it.

J. W. MATHER. I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That this association recommend that articles entered for competition be entered under cover, and that the name of the exhibitor should not be put upon the article entered until after the awarding of the premiums.

W. SHENAFELD of Clarion. I have had considerable experience in these matters. It is always the surplus that the exhibitor wishes to sell. You cannot prevent a judge knowing who owns cattle, when the different numbers of entries are called out and the exhibitor is instructed to bring out his stock. One of the main objects of the exhibitor is to make sale of what he has at the fair, and he wants people to know it. Then he has a way of learning to whom cattle belong. That is his object in going there. I think it would be wrong to vote that a man should not be known as well as his stock.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. The subject has been before our society a good deal. The plan adopted by the Pennsylvania State Society is

by numbers. If I make an exhibit, and my number is thirty, it is the same all through my exhibits. While it is very good with inanimate objects throughout an exhibition, I am inclined to think on the subject of stock it is different. We all know that a man exhibiting stock has his representative. He has probably a picture of the animal hanging around near the exhibit. He also has a name for the animal, stating whether it was imported, or that the animal was begotten by such and such other animal; and he takes great pleasure in telling the people these things as they come to his locality on attending the fair. Thus all the people know before the judges come out who the owners are. We want to know the names of the exhibits and the names of the exhibitors of all the two year olds, and then of the three years old, and so all through the exhibition; and a man cannot have a fine taste for fine animals who has been there half an hour and does not know who the animals belong to. I repeat, that I think with the other exhibits it would be proper and right, and we could dispatch business with much less trouble to the clerks in making the entries; but as far as live stock is concerned, I think it would not make any difference with foreign judges whether it was a brindle or not, or whether the name of the owner was emblazoned all over it.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. Between numbers and names, I think it would save a great deal of time to have numbers, that is, in the way of dispatching business. In other respects I do not think it makes much difference. In regard to the numbers, I have seen fair specimens exhibited of Jerseys, and Devons and Durhams, when the judges did not know one class from the other. I have seen sheep exhibited as Cotswold that did not have a tenth of the strain in them; and Oxford Downs that did not have an eighth, and yet put down as pure blood. And the same way with hogs—Polen China, and Berkshire, and Chester Whites—I have seen hogs of a different class altogether classed as such hogs.

Now, the difficulty is that judges do not always know, and there comes the advantage of having experts. I believe in some societies it would be a great advantage to have that class of judges; a man who knows the difference between a full-bred Devon and a Durham, and the difference between the Berkshires and the Chester Whites, and so on; and the same way with sheep. If you have not material enough to find judges of that kind at home, then you ought to get somebody outside.

D. B. McWILLIAMS of Juniata. It seems to me that this matter of judges all hinges upon this: The intention is that the judges shall judge upon the merits of the animal or article, and not be carried this way or that by favoritism. That is our way of appointing judges at fairs. If judges will be governed by favoritism, and are partial, then they are not fit for judges; and at fairs, if they do not believe that they have men within their own county, and belonging to the county agricultural society, who have not had sufficient experience to make competent judges, why not send for men who are competent judges? But I say it all hinges on this: Every article and animal should be judged upon its merits, letting everything else stand or fall. If men do not make the returns upon any animals or articles otherwise than through favoritism, then they are not fit for judges.

R. McKEE of Mercer. I think they would prefer to have an expert judge. But suppose you would go and put in a lot of cattle, and tell him he must not know the names of the owners. Would it be wise to say that?

H. V. WHITE of Columbia. We tried that this fall in the live stock, and

had some judge from Juniata county, a gentleman who raises stock, and is acquainted with stock breeding. We had him come on and judge upon the stock generally. We sent with him a clerk, and the clerk simply took the numbers. We found it gave the best satisfaction we had ever had there.

We do not use Allen's entry book, because we find we get as good results from the American system. We have the name and the number put down, and that number represents the gentleman's exhibit if he makes a hundred exhibits. The gentleman leaves his name there, and the number is placed opposite, and that number goes through the book. It is recorded in the premium book, but never on the premium list. On the line referring to the yearling Devon bull, or whatever it may be, we put the number representing the man opposite the exhibit. It is very short work indeed; for, although he may make fifty entries, his number stands for all of them.

In domestic manufactures—local matters—we usually appoint three on the committee, and generally ladies. Those committees make a decision. But if at any time they are passing through, and one of the judges says "this quilt belongs to Mrs. Jones; I know her, and she has been working at it all winter" the clerk runs his pencil through that number, and says "that number cannot compete; you must make up your decision from the balance." That has been a success since we have adopted the clerical system. I think that system would be found satisfactory, and that the secretaries who have charge of the numerical system would find it much better for them than the Allen book.

How should the judges at county exhibitions be selected, and how should they be protected from exhibitors and others?

C. EVES of Columbia. The secretary of the Lebanon County Agricultural Society (Mr. Lantz) used an expression in the early part of our meeting this afternoon that answered all these points. He said the agricultural societies of this state should have a superior head. Now, every local agricultural society should have a superior head. From their defects and shortcomings the want of money in the treasury comes.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. I would say, take no judges from the county in which the exhibition is held. Ask the most intelligent gentlemen from adjoining counties, who are known to be disinterested, to come and aid you. Let them be men of undoubted character and ability in that particular. Then, as remuneration, they should have at least their expenses paid.

J. H. LAWRENCE of Sullivan. You can only select them for their particular class, and you have got to introduce persons of integrity. But I am in favor of the one judge system.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. I am in favor of one judge, and he to be a stranger. We have a man who has judged cattle for us for probably ten years, and we find that he gives more satisfaction than anybody else we can get. He is a perfect stranger to all of them, an expert in the business, decides upon merit, and there is no fault found, so far as we know. So with horses, we have a stranger from Pittsburgh. Our horsemen have found very little fault with his decisions. It is true that in selecting judges in that way, some of our own men are dissatisfied.

They think they are better able to judge, or at least as well as those who come from abroad. But I think it is better to have one who knows no one in the county.

J. H. LAWRENCE of Sullivan. In the one judge system each agricultural society sits upon the acts of that one particular judge; and they can report him to the neighboring associations. If the report is adverse, they do not employ him, but pass him by on account of his disregard of what is right.

M. A. BROSIUS of Lancaster. I would like to hear the experience of Dr. Roland here. I regard York county as one of the successful county societies, and one of the most successful that I have attended the exhibition of.

Mr. NICHOLS of Westmoreland. I am not in favor of the one judge system to which some have adverted in the discussion. In our workings it has not been found satisfactory. We might start out on the principle that three men know more than one. I believe that if there should be one man out of the three who is not a competent judge there may be two who are, and I think it would be better to have three. On the same principle we might dispense with juries and leave the decision to one man.

The Westmoreland county society is not a failure. We have money in the treasury, and get along as well as the general run. But I came here to take new ideas back to old Westmoreland. But I cannot agree with my friends here on the one judge system. I am in favor of three judges, and three honest men—and an honest man is said to be the noblest work of God.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. My mind is quite made up upon the foreign judge system, let it be one or more. My experience has been that where they have foreign judges, the satisfaction is always better among the exhibitors. That has been the case with fairs generally. Where a certain number of committees have been on from year to year they have gotten familiar with the exhibits. Even with the quilts that are hanging up, they will say that that woman has the same quilt hanging up there year after year—and they go and come, without paying special attention to the article. The result is that the merits of the work are not thoroughly looked into. Exhibitors come to fairs at great expense sometimes, and, if their exhibits are judged by experts, they are always better satisfied.

Sometimes various exhibits are so neary alike that juries would be glad to offer rewards for both. But they are restricted to the premium lists. Foreign judges sometimes have discretionary powers in regard to this. It has been my experience that when juries are selected from men foreign to the county in which the exhibitions are held, it has proved to be better.

Some parties have brought cattle to fairs as three or four years old, in order to come right on the premium list, when the expert judges who examined the animals knew that they must have been five or six years old, and that those cattle had not been rightly entered in accordance with the premium list, and, therefore, were not entitled to compete with the younger cattle on exhibition. That is one reason I have heard advanced by a good many familiar with cattle, that for fear of mistakes one of the judges should be from the vicinity. But, taking everything into consideration, I should certainly vote to have foreign judges, if possible.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. In regard to judging cattle at fairs,

I presume I have had as much experience as many others. I have exhibited cattle in Mercer county for a number of years, and we have never had satisfaction, or we, the exhibitors, never had, until they adopted the one judge system. There are several reasons why we think it best, and one is that it can be done in half the time that three men will do it. You get a man who knows how to be a judge, and he will always have a reason for what he does. When he puts the ribbon on, and any one asks him why he does so, he can put his right on the spot at once. He does not have to listen to the arguments of breeders. He decides by what he himself knows.

I will give a little experience of a scrape I got into where there were three on the committee. It was a certain county, which shall be nameless by me now. There were three judges, and they were examining the bull calves. I had a calf there, I thought a very good one, ten and one half months old, which weighed 1,250 pounds. Of course it was manifest in the calf himself, for they put a red ribbon on. They moved on down a little further, and found another calf, that they thought was better on account of the age. One of the judges came back, and said "I am authorized to remove this ribbon." "All right," says I. I said "I will follow you down, to see where you place it." It was tied to a calf that they said was three months old. The fair was held the third week in September. I examined the calf carefully, and then I said "Gentlemen, I would like to know how a calf three months old could have its ears frozen off." And you never saw three men look more foolish. (Laughter and applause.) They did not know what to do or what to say. But they could see well enough that the calf's ears had been frozen off.

W. W. PARKER of Chester. I would like from the discussion of these subjects to take something away to show to my constituents. I therefore offer this resolution:

Resolved, That it is the judgment of this convention that the different exhibits at our county fairs should be judged by one competent disinterested person, who is an expert in that department.

W. S. ROLAND of York. I have been connected with the county society that I represent for the last thirty-seven years. When we first organized and entered into the holding of our fairs, we had no difficulty whatever in judging our articles, or in having them judged, until we had run along probably twenty years. Then the exhibitors became the judges, and the judges were nowhere. We then adopted the system of getting judges from abroad. We wrote to other counties, and asked other agricultural societies to select judges for us. The selected judges for us and sent them to our society. These were for live stock and machinery chiefly, and we paid their expenses. This run along very smoothly until the last two years. Then the exhibitors had got back to their old tricks. They have got to be too familiar with the judges, for just as soon as they see them going down and examining the stock, they become judges also and the consequence is that nearly every article and every head of stock has been ribboned. So that we are really getting tired of the foreign judge system, to some extent. I believe, however, I can vote for that resolution. But in the one man system, he must be competent for the department for which he is selected. I do it upon the theory that when we go into courts of justice, we rely upon the judge upon the bench, and not so much upon the twelve men of the jury.

W. W. PARKER. I offered this, because we have tried the one judge

system, and it has worked in every department with grand success. In our exhibits of poultry we employed an expert and paid him for the last three or four exhibitions, and it has given entire satisfaction to all the exhibitors as well as to the managers, and we have had no trouble.

But I have just offered this resolution for the purpose of getting the idea of this meeting, so I can take something home to show that we adopted something here to-day.

H. H. COLVIN of Lackwanna. I heartily approve of the resolution that for judges at our fairs we select experts. I am not so particular whether one man or three men. But I do not believe that one man is as capable of judging all breeds of stock. A man may be a first-class breeder of one breed, and of another breed he will not understand all the various points. For that reason I believe in selecting judges for our different breeds of stock.

W. S. ROLAND of York. Was not that the intention of the mover of the resolution, to select different experts for the different departments?

W. B. EBY of Perry. I think it should be the duty of somebody to select a number of experts to recommend to the different county societies, and then these different county societies can select one or more, as may to the society be deemed best. At the same time it will give some practical work, and in that line that the county societies will very much appreciate; because, the great desideratum after all is to secure the services of a man of sufficient experience in the branch in which he pretends to be an expert, and to give an eminently fair and just judgment. It would facilitate agricultural societies, who desire to hire good experts to act as judges in particular branches, to just be able to write to the state organization appointed for this purpose, and then they could procure these persons—one or more—just as they desire.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. I would suggest an amendment, so that the resolution shall read "foreign judges, or the expert system." That would allow each organization to select one or more, as they might deem proper. It would not deprive an organization of naming one or more.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I have been connected with an agricultural society for twenty years, and that society has held exhibitions every year but one. This difficulty as to judges has been one of the greatest with which we have had to contend. To find judges for each department is a difficult thing to do. One of the principal difficulties is with the executive committee which appoints the judges. They have a meeting and confer together, and just appoint at random judges from all over the county, without any proper consideration whether they are suitable men or not. They have not notified them that they will be wanted as judges; and when the exhibition takes place they as a general thing, have not taken thought on the subject of the things they are called upon to judge. Then they may not serve, for when the executive committee puts them on it does not know whether they will serve or not. They have to go around and find the best they can. I think the managers of a society should not appoint any man upon an article unless he knows about the article he is asked to judge upon. I think a great deal of the failure is owing to this fact, that there is not proper care taken in regard to this before the exhibition comes off.

Then in regard to experts, there are a great many "experts" who are not very expert on horses, cattle, or anything else. There are men who profess to have knowledge, who do not have knowledge on the subject.

I have great respect for the feelings of those gentlemen on that subject. But at the same time in every county there are men enough to be found who are competent to speak upon anything exhibited in that county. Men are now raising better chickens and better stock, and spending a good deal of money; I can notice a great many. We used to have hogs or rather "land pikes;" and chickens good enough for fighting, and nothing else; and so with cattle, especially, and I do not think that having a foreign chicken judge would operate very well for a succession of years. If we can find arbitrators to settle disputes between people who are neighbors, we can certainly find men honest enough for judges, and men capable enough to judge of good stock. Therefore I am opposed to this outside judge system.

J. H. LAWRENCE of Clarion. I represent one of the most insignificant counties in this State. We only boast of one thing, and that is natural gas. We have agricultural societies nevertheless. We are a chartered institution, and offer premiums aggregating perhaps \$2,500 or \$3,000, and we have got to adopt some means to meet them.

Now, in regard to judges, some want persons from abroad, and others from home. We had some one or other from home put on a particular article. We used the Allen system. I noticed as secretary that oftentimes there would be two premiums marked on the same article, they would want to award a man a double premium. This sometimes has been the result of having men entirely incompetent, or because they would insist upon awarding the premium to a man who was a friend.

A. C. Sisson of Lackawanna. One difficulty I have had to meet, being where there were three judges. I have found judges perfectly conscientious, yet awarding nothing to a man who had several meritorious exhibits—not a single premium—and not seemed in the least disturbed.

I would recommend that these judges be sworn before they attempt to do their duty, and decide according to the merits of the articles, and not according to the number of exhibits a man has upon the ground. If I am called upon to appraise the goods and chattles of a deceased friend or neighbor, I have to be sworn. Now is it not better that a man should decide under oath upon the merits of any article?

W. W. Parker of Chester. I have drawn my resolution to read as follows:

Resolved, That it is the judgment of this convention that the different exhibits at our county fairs should be judged by one competent disinterested person, who is an expert in that department, and that he be paid by the society.

On motion the resolution was carried by a vote of fifty in the affirmative to five in the negative.

In awarding premiums should the premium list be strictly adhered to by both judges and officers?

W. S. ROLAND of York. I think we might take a vote on that affirmatively, without discussion. I move that it be approved.

The motion was duly seconded.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I doubt the propriety of that. Sometimes there are very worthy objects presented for exhibition for which no premiums are offered at all; and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish

between two objects worthy of premium. I think there should be discretion in the matter. I do not believe that judges should be strictly confined in the awarding of premiums. I think they should have some discretion. I think every society from experience will find that desirable.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. I think it has been the experience of officers of societies heretofore.

W. S. ROLAND. Has not that been by the consent of the officers?

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. Is that not done? I think that the proper officers and managers of the boards would have the right to do that. Now what I comprehend in this question is simply this: That all the articles enumerated in the premium list, whatever the limit is the judges as to the amount of money for premiums, that that should be adhered to and not deviated from. But I do not apprehend that it would exclude a magnificent display, that if not in the premium books, that the judges or officers could not offer something to cover such miscellaneous articles, or something of that kind. Now, in our county, we have a department in which all miscellaneous articles that are not enumerated, or not to be found in any of the other departments, the judges have the power of awarding premiums on such articles. And therefore it would be well, under the idea, to strictly adhere to the premium list. I think Dr. Roland is right when he says that we should adhere to the premium book, especially when we have judges who are extravagant, and, on the other hand, such variations would work injury to the other exhibitors. It is a matter of honor. We send out premium lists. Then, as a man said this afternoon, we ought to pay the premiums if we do have bad weather. And so I think it should be the policy to adhere also strictly to the premium list.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I think this language will prevent the judges from voting any money away not specified in the premium list.

Mr. HARRISON of Lawrence. We have in our county society a list for which there is no premium offered in any other class; and those articles are passed upon by the judges as not mentioned in any other class. The judges not only pass upon them, but they award a first or second premium, as they may see proper. The amount of the premium is not left in the hands of the judges, but in the hands of the officials. After the fair is over, and the matter is being adjudicated, the managers can fix the amount of the premium that is awarded in each case, and it is not left with the judges, but with the association. The judges simply award, or pass upon the award, but fix no amount of premium, that is left to the society.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. I do not see how this would interfere with the premium list. Very many agricultural societies have a committee outside of the premium list to award on all articles of merit, sometimes called a discretionary committee.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. We have been struck with the omissions in making our premium list out, and have insisted upon and very much wanted to make a class to put a horse in, for instance, so that he would draw a premium. What is meant by this, in my opinion, is to adhere strictly to what you publish in the premium list, and not deviate from it. I would not allow any of the judges in the classes enumerated in the list to have any control in awarding premiums over and above those advertised in the classes. But the premium committee has a right to say what is meritorious and what is not; and if they have plenty of

funds the officers can give more premiums than are offered, and get more credit for their work, by awarding more money.

W. S. ROLAND of York. Now most premium lists have classes in them, at least all I have seen yet. If the attention of judges is called to articles that are not enumerated on the premium list, and if they are meritorious, they should report them to the officers.

It struck me that this was intended to protect the weaker societies—for instance, if it was bad weather—if they were unable to pay their premiums, that they might then deviate from the rule and pay less premium. Of course it is a contract between the society and the exhibitors to pay the premiums after they have been awarded. It struck me that it was intended to protect some of those societies, and I think so still.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. Our society always pays the premiums that it offers to pay. But as for that, in publishing their books they have always reserved the right to pay them all or in part. I think that is prudent to do.

Mr. NICHOLS of Westmoreland. Would not this be taking discretionary power from the management of the association? Suppose they advertised to pay premiums for trotting horses, and some parties came from a long distance, and brought their horses there, and the races did not fill? Then they have no discretionary power to allow those horses to trot or to pay them premiums. Would that be right? I think it is best to leave the power discretionary with the management of the fair. It seems to me it would be doing injustice to parties who came there with their stock. If this is right we would be obliged to pay a certain *pro rata* premium to owners of horses entering under the national association on the trotting tracks.

CYRUS T. FOX of Berks. The Berks county society has got over this difficulty by allowing a discretionary amount. That is, an amount in each department to the discretionary use of the judges. They are limited, say, to fifty dollars in the horse department, and ten dollars in the cattle. Then five dollars we assign to poultry, and so on through the list. If the amount does not reach, the committee reports to the officers of the society, and then this matter is gone over by the committee of revision. We find it an admirable plan to have that committee sitting during the fair. We select two or three prominent persons, and they go over the several premium lists, and the amounts appropriated by the judges without proper authority. If they know they have so much in that department they can award small premiums. Sometimes a premium awarded in that way is more highly prized than if the party secured the first prize. It is a special prize.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. National association rules fix all matters of bad weather, so far as trottings are concerned. And if the purse is not filled a race can be declared off, and if it is bad weather the trotting is postponed until the next fair day; so that the society does not lose anything. I apprehend that this applies to premiums on horses and cattle, or anything of that kind. So if we offer ten or fifteen dollars for a magnificent horse that is exhibited, we ought to give it, and not allow the judges to reduce it. It is a matter of private contract. So I think this is a plain question.

W. S. ROLAND of York. I think it would be a dangerous precedent to ignore the action of judges. I think the proper motto, and the true way to get along, is to pay your premiums as you agree to pay them.

Keep up your contracts, and you will have good exhibitions and a good attendance.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. If I understand the question rightly, I think it applies to the premium book as published by the society. The judges are required to adhere strictly to the published lists. The Lehigh county society has special premium committees appointed, and they revise them, and, if they think it necessary, they make changes. As I understand this, it applies to the premiums that are advertised to be awarded at the holding of the fair, and to the payment of articles that come under that head.

W. S. ROLAND of York. And if any article is meritorious?

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. There are provisions made for unenumerated articles. While I think it wise sometimes to revise the premiums, I think it unwise to go back of the action of the judges.

H. V. WHITE of Columbia. Relative to the revising committee, we have found it to be a necessity. We have had in our experience thirty-three classes, and three judges to the class; and we have offered in those classes \$2,000, and the judges have awarded \$5,000. Therefore it is an absolute necessity to have a revising committee. For example, this year we promised on the best silk quilt a fair and liberal sum, and for the second best a certain amount, and the judges returned nine premiums, aggregating over one hundred dollars. The parties were entitled to only fifteen dollars.

It is a fact that judges do not use very good judgment very often in passing on an article on which they have been appointed to judge. We have found that to be the case in times past, and have at last concluded that that system of judging is not proper. But that will come up at the proper time.

J. P. BARNES. The judges must have thought every exhibit entitled to a premium.

H. V. WHITE of Columbia. There were thirty-six silk quilts, and they thought that fourteen ought to have a premium. The revising of their award was a necessity in order to get at what the premium list offered.

J. P. BARNES. Then the committee did not adhere to the rules laid down, and the revising committee stepped in and revised what they had done.

J. T. REYNOLDS of Chester. More than one class of judges have stepped out of their line of duty to award premiums beyond what exhibitors were entitled to on the list. I think all societies would save, at least many of them, by having a discretionary committee, or an advisory committee, to look over and see that every thing has been awarded in accordance with the lists.

J. P. BARNES. In the case Mr. White referred to of course they do not adhere strictly to the premium list.

MR. HARBISON. I move that this meeting recommend that in awarding premiums the premium list be strictly adhered to by the judges. Adopted unanimously.

Should there not be an adequate state appropriation for the support of all societies conducted strictly for the promotion of agriculture and horticulture?

CH. D. DARRAH of Bradford. Mr. President: I do not know of any agricultural society that has been able to pay any very heavy dividends on the receipts. They are conducted strictly for the benefit of the community; and they are often, especially up in our section, fearfully hampered, through fear that the receipts will not equal the expenditures. It seems to me that the state could not use a portion of its money in any better way than by appropriating at least a part of it to agricultural societies throughout the state, particularly those conducted strictly as agricultural or horticultural societies; and that the appropriation ought to be at least \$100. I think it would be beneficial, and that the state would not be a loser by it.

J. A. HERR of Clinton. I shall take the opposite side of this question. I cannot fix the limit exactly where that would start, or where it would stop. For every institution for the promotion of agriculture, there might spring up a number of societies in every county and town, and even in lesser localities, and each society claim an appropriation under an act of that kind. How could that be remedied? At present the state really recognizes but one or two associations, and they are state wide. If this confined itself to state associations, I do not know that I would object to it, but to extend it to every society throughout the state, both agricultural and horticultural, whenever they choose to ask for it, and then without any arrangement whereby to make it allowable, I see nothing but confusion, and could not favor it from my standpoint.

T. J. EDGE of Chester. I should favor the proposition as it stands, if these parties could be paid by the state under the same as similar provisions as paid by counties. The State of Massachusetts gives her societies \$18,000. She makes an appropriation of \$30,000 to the State Board, of which \$18,000 is to be paid to agricultural societies under rules made by the Board. Here, as you all know, in every county where there are three or four societies, no matter which way the county authorities decide, there is difficulty. The bounty can be paid to but one society in one county in any one year, and it cannot be divided—it must all be paid to one society—but it can be paid alternately.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. That view of it is quite different from the view I have taken. It having to go directly to societies, agricultural and horticultural, it would be unlimited. If the object is to take the load from the county, by taking the amount from the county taxes and transferring it to the state, why it is another thing; or if it is intended that this shall do away with the present act.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. In my county we have three societies which hold exhibitions—the Tioga County Agricultural and Mechanical Industrial Association, the Farmers' Agricultural Society of Tioga County, and the society at Westfield.

In Bradford county there is one at Canton, one at Troy, and one at Towanda—this directly on the east. On the north of us, not in this state, however, but in the adjoining State of New York, there is one at Hornellsville, one at Bath, and one at Troupsburg. On the west of us in Pennsylvania, in the county of Potter, there is a fair held at Ulysses, and one at Coudersport: so, you see, we are right in the center of quite

a fair-going people. Now, once in three years we get an appropriation from the county. Now, then, the law of 1851 provides that when any society shall elect officers to hold an exhibition, and raise voluntary, by its members, a sum of money, the county shall pay a similar amount, provided it does not in any case exceed \$100 dollars, that is the society raising money to the amount of \$100 will get a similar amount from the county. Now, there is no reason that I can see why any local society should not receive \$100, if it raises a like amount from the members of the society. I am in favor of that. There is an object in that. What is the object of the agricultural society, if it is not to promote agricultural improvement and knowledge, increase and better the stock, and better the products of the farm generally, and of the workman, the mechanic and artisan?

That is what the fairs are held for, to benefit the people. If it is advisable to give a hundred dollars to a society, if there is only one in the county, it is far more to give it to two societies if they hold exhibitions. The benefit to the people is twice as much.

Now, I would not stop there. I have heard of a society that holds an annual exhibition at Philadelphia, called the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society. We have nothing of it, unless, sometimes, we go there. Some years we get a premium list. That society I believe should be aided by the state to a large extent—to a very large extent. If a fair is worth holding at all, it is worth being at some point where the people of the whole state can be gathered together, and be benefited by it, and the products of the state be brought together. I say now that with the debt upon the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society it should be assisted, and put upon its feet, and the place for the society is here. And I say to-day to this meeting of the secretaries of the different societies that we should have a state fair ground near the center of this state, and have a fair every year that Pennsylvania should be proud of. (Applause.) It should be done. Fairs are a good thing, and exhibitions of this character are a good thing; and I say that exhibitions held in addition to those now held would not hurt anybody, but do societies great good.

Mr. BULLARD of Crawford. I feel called upon to make a few remarks upon this topic, inasmuch as we have had the experience in Crawford county of having seven or eight societies organized and holding fairs. We now have four in the county. The society to which I belong has held annual exhibitions for thirty-eight years, and never missed; and for a number of years we used the \$100; but others have drawn it since that time. As I have said, we have four in existence, and the question now is whether so many fairs in the county prove a benefit to that county. I claim that they do not, because we have even in some of our townships organizations as difficult to keep up, or almost as difficult, as if they were the county organization. Now, one or two good agricultural societies in a county are a great benefit; that we must admit. But when we come to divide it up I think it is a damper, for the reason that it takes away all system from a regular fair or society. Then, when we have so many, they sooner or later all go to pieces. The most of the fairs in our county have been failures, except the Crawford County Agricultural Society. As I said, there are three or four running, and it is about all they can do. I do not wish to say anything to discourage them—at any rate, any more than is necessary—because there are some capable and excellent men, and a number prominent in the community, connected with them.

Now, if \$100 were to be given to every society I believe we would have at least ten in our county; and I think it would be ruinous then to all of them, while two or three, or even four, might succeed. I have found that when numerous societies have sprung up, our own society has had all it could do to run though we have added twenty-five per cent. to our premiums often, and after our exhibition was through, paid them. But we find now, since there has got to be so many agricultural societies, that the people get tired of us. They cannot stand them all, and consequently none are prospered as they should be. While I think the agricultural societies should be cared for, even by the state, the door should not be left open for them to spring up where they choose, and secure the \$100 from the commonwealth.

Mr. MANLEY of Bradford. This might have a tendency to encourage fairs which admit everything within their enclosures no matter how moral or immoral, if they will pay for it, even to the vilest hole that can be tolerated. Should the state encourage that? Should there not be a limit set by the State Board of Agriculture? It seems to me that his difficulty will come up prominently, unless the proposed law shall apply only to strictly agricultural and horticultural fairs.

F. M. McKEEHAN of Perry. It seems to me that we should so guard our doors that they do not get in. We all know that in rural districts farmers, to a great extent, are in a very bad condition at the present time, owing to heavy taxation; and if the state would take the place of the county in making these bounty appropriations, and relieve many of our small and almost helpless counties, which have nothing to depend upon except the taxation of real estate for county, school and road purposes—if the state could be induced to take hold and make this appropriation, I think it would be a step in the right direction. I think I would not advocate increasing the number of fairs beyond the number of representatives that we have in our legislative body—one or two for each legislative district. I think we will have to confine in some way, and perhaps that would be about the best plan. If we fix no limit they are very likely to run to the extreme which has already been intimated. If we were entitled to but one representative, I think it would not be advisable to permit the holding of more than two fairs. If we have two representatives, then four fairs. But I would prefer one to every legislative district, and then I think the state ought to provide the \$100.

T. J. EDGE. We are not discussing this question as it reads. The wording ought to be changed to "Societies holding agricultural and horticultural exhibitions." My remarks were upon all societies, whether holding exhibitions or not. In that case it would take every agricultural society in the state, and every horticultural society, whether county, town or city, or whether holding exhibitions or not, and it is rather too sweeping. If it were confined to societies holding exhibitions annually, or more frequently, it would likely be more generally supported.

CHANDLER EVES of Columbia. It seems to me there are two questions which we have to settle in this matter. The gentleman who opened the discussion said emphatically he was in favor of an adequate appropriation to all these societies. Now we will have to settle how many societies in each district should be supported; next, what is an adequate support? The Columbia County Agricultural Society spent, for its immediate expenses above its premiums, \$1,800 last year. Now, if we have an adequate support from the State, we would want four or

five thousand dollars; because, when we use our own money, we use one thousand eight hundred dollars outside of the premiums. The gross expenditures are over six thousand dollars.

Now we ought to know at once how many societies should receive this aid, and what is to be the extent of the aid, before we can pass to anything further on the subject. It seems to me very difficult to fix this money question. I do not believe there is anybody here willing to say that only one society in a county should have aid, and that to the extent of only \$300.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. The difficulty about this I think will arise afterwards. "Adequate support" would mean in the case of the State Agricultural Society a sufficient amount to free them from their indebtedness, and put them on their feet again. That, I repeat, would be adequate support for that society, and I think that really the State Agricultural Society should be put upon its feet; for this great State of Pennsylvania should not allow it to go out of existence. "Adequate support" for the Agricultural Society of York County would not be anything, for they have enough and to spare; and there are other societies all over the state that have. I presume in Berks county it is the same way, and in Lancaster county, and ours, where they have large amounts of surplus; or in Bradford or Wyoming county, where they also have; and here is Troy, with a large surplus.

The stockholders declare big dividends, and the "adequate support" for them would be nothing at all, whereas the "adequate support" for a society in a small county would mean something more.

I think the point of our friend here (Mr. Eves), that after the work has been done with rough-cast material, that it is a pretty big subject after all. But, really, I suppose all you intended was to call the attention of our Legislature to the fact that our societies needed encouragement from the state and, as far as that is concerned, I am in favor of that part of it myself. They cannot do any too much for agricultural communities, either through their society, or in any other way. I think, as it requires a great deal of time and consideration, that we should make no recommendation on this subject.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. I think it would be well to come to a decision after we are through with the discussion. Would it not be well to take a vote, to see whether we are in favor of the state making the appropriation for the benefit of each society, instead of the county doing it? I merely suggest this, in order to come to some definite conclusion.

F. M. McKEEHAN of Perry. I move that we recommend that the transfer be made from the county to the state.

G. D. STITZEL. That would be rather insufficient.

F. M. McKEEHAN. That is \$100.

G. D. STITZEL. That is really hardly anything.

F. M. McKEEHAN. It shifts the burden, if the Legislature sees fit to do so.

T. J. EDGE. I move that this convention appoint a committee to draft a bill authorizing the payment by the state of \$100 bounty to every agricultural society now holding fairs. I offer that motion, not for the purpose of cutting off remarks, but merely for the purpose of taking the subject up—that the state give \$100, on the condition that the society shall give a hundred dollars.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. I would like to offer a substitute, to make the amount \$300 instead of \$100, and that the appropriations should be

made to the oldest recognized chartered society in the county. It would avoid the trouble that my friend on my right here has referred to in regard to running the unbecoming and gambling in fairs; because when an agricultural society is organized, they want to get along some how, and I know in some counties they have been tolerating the worst kinds of gambling so as to make both ends meet. To keep one in the county should be sufficient, and that should draw the appropriation—that is, the oldest organized chartered society. I would offer that as an amendment to Mr. Edge's motion that there be an appropriation of \$300 given to the oldest recognized society in each county.

W. H. H. RIDDLE of Butler. I second that motion. The appropriation of \$100 by the county commissioners in 1851 might have been thought large at that time, but it is not considered so to-day.

In regard to the remarks of my friend on the left, that it would not be an "adequate appropriation" unless it would wipe out the debt of the society, I say that would simply be out of place; because when a man has been so unfortunate as to lose his property, or his barn has burned down, and he flies to the neighbors, if he receives even a five dollar bill he is grateful. If these societies would receive but \$300, and then shape their aims properly pecuniarily, they would get along. It would be quite a little item, and it would be a great deal more in place now than one hundred dollars, and as much as the \$100 was when it was appropriated. Perhaps \$100 by the county in 1851 was a pretty large appropriation; but that does not amount to anything now. I think the motion as presented by Judge Stitzel, and the basis upon which he proposes the distribution of the money, is as near the right thing as we can reach. Therefore I second it.

THOS. S. MANLEY of Bradford. I very much prefer the motion as offered by the gentleman from Chester (Mr. Edge). In Bradford county we have an association which has had an existence of twenty-one years, the one at Troy fifteen years, and the one at Canton ten years. They have paid their premiums very regularly and no discounts. If you suggest but one society, it would of course go to the central, at Towanda. We are twenty-six miles west; Troy is about twenty-six from there. We take in our part of Bradford, a part of Tioga county and a part of Sullivan. Troy takes in the northern part of Bradford county, and to the State line. You at once shut off two fairs and two appropriations to one county. It would be given to one, and to one, every time, and not be handed around. So you see what would be the result in a county as large as Bradford. We would practically be shut out of the fair business. No men would conduct a fair at our end of the county of Bradford on the terms that are offered; and we would have to go more than forty miles by rail to the county seat. We might go over to Tioga county and exhibit at Mansfield—but we are talking of our own county—and we want to have a fair there if we can.

J. A. ELLIOTT of Tioga county. It would seem to me that these gentlemen who have belonged to societies for twenty and thirty years are trying to put something in the way of the organization of these societies. In our county, with something like 60,000 people, we have three county organizations, Wellsboro', Westfield and Mansfield. I believe we had better fairs than when we had one. It seems to me it would be right to shut off the two youngest, and give them the oldest. I believe Mr. Mather will say himself that since the organization of the other two in the county all the fairs are better. It would seem to me not best to shut off a society because of its age.

A. FRAZIER of Venango. I do not think agriculture is promoted by having fairs. I find with us as our friend from Crawford (Mr. Bullard) has stated. Having four or five fairs, some of them are inferior. Then there is a class of people who go around from one fair to another, and they prepare products and stuff to take to all. I think if we were concentrated, and only had one fair, it would be more beneficial to the agricultural societies. By concentration we do away with a great many small fairs, which are made up to a great extent by people who wish to attend a great many of them.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I have just this to say in addition to what my friend from Mansfield (Mr. Elliott) has said. If the argument of the gentleman from Venango (Mr. Frazier) is true, why not hold a fair at Harrisburg, or Philadelphia, or Northumberland, or Pittsburgh, and hold only one fair in the state during the whole year? Now, I disagree with the gentleman who says we are having too many fairs. A reasonable number of fairs will sustain themselves. If they are not sustained of course they will not continue in existence long. But a community having organized an agricultural society, and put in from two to five thousand dollars for grounds and buildings in order to run a successful fair, they are going to look around and see whether it is going to pay when they are done, or before the work and money has been expended. If they find it will not pay, it is likely they will not start it.

In Wellsboro' we have \$7,000 in grounds and buildings; at Mansfield they have pretty nearly as much—I do not think they have any more. In Westfield they have fifty acres, with fair buildings quite as good as at Wellsboro' or Mansfield. On looking over our ground we find Wellsboro' near the center of the county, twenty miles to Westfield, and twelve miles to Mansfield. By railroad from Wellsboro' to Westfield, it is twenty-two miles, and from Wellsboro' to Mansfield it is just fifty miles. Just think of it. You have there a drive across the country to Mansfield of twelve miles; and if you take your stock to the fair by rail it is fifty miles travel from Wellsboro' to Mansfield, and Wellsboro' the center of the county.

Now we say that the fairs do not conflict in our county, where we have three. Mr. Elliott has said, and I say in that connection that the farmers' exhibition at Wellsboro' has improved in wealth and attendance since the organization at Mansfield; and since the third society of three years, there is a stimulus for all of us to go to work harder, and have a better fair each year.

Now, I do not know how it is in Venango, or other counties, where they may have societies mismanaged. Of course some fairs are not run as well as others. Localities, business centers, and large farming interests make a difference in the receipts of a fair.

Now, I say to you, that any society, big or little, that will raise a hundred dollars by voluntary contribution or two hundred dollars or three hundred dollars, and receive a like amount from the state, is insured by a capital of six hundred dollars as a minimum figure to operate their fair, in addition to the receipts they get. That will warrant the doing away with games of chance, gambling booths, and things that are unlawful that hover around societies, which cannot but make it a blessing whether there is one fair in a county, or two or three or four.

There are men who start out on the first of August, and keep it up until the snow flies, following up agricultural fairs. They make their living off people who attend fairs. If they do not go to one, they turn

up at another. They know all about the fairs of one or two states around, in order to attend them. If the manager of one be a little more lax than elsewhere, they take that in the course of their circuit, and they reap their reward by gulling the people.

Now, there can be no better action, as I understand it, that this state association of agricultural societies can do, than to say that the law of 1851 should be amended so as to apply to all agricultural exhibitions held annually in this state.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. No other society will cut any figure with us.

A. FRAZIER of Venango. After investigating from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars for buildings and improvements, and paying several thousand dollars for premiums, it seems to me the state ought to be willing to extend some aid.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. I am glad that I have this opportunity of meeting with you, and that this very important question has been brought up. I do not see for my part that it could be put in very much better language than it is here. If we should adopt this as it stands on this paper, is there any reason why we should not have this appropriation? I want to appeal to you, gentlemen, here, representing the agricultural and horticultural interests of Pennsylvania. What are we getting by this appropriation? If I understand it, it is the transferring of the appropriation from the counties only. Many of them are not able to bear this appropriation, and so it is proposed to ask it directly from the state; or that we ask the state to give one, two, three, or four, and even five hundred dollars to help agricultural exhibitions in different counties. Now, other states are doing it, and if we do not ask for anything, we will not get anything. This is starting, to my mind, at the right place. It goes from here to the State Board, which can speak in louder tones than any other organization in the state. I do not believe that the counties are getting paid for assessing and collecting the income tax on personal property, or on moneys at interest that go to the state. Possibly I may be wrong. This money is all going to the state. Some money held outside of the state, and at interest, there may not be any revenue on to our state government. They are trying to get this. I appeal to you to ask for whatever you want what you need to advance the interests of agriculture in this state.

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. The subject has all got down to this one point: Does it benefit the agricultural interests of the state to have as many fairs as we can get up in the commonwealth? I say it does not. If you appropriate \$300, or \$100 to every agricultural society that is organized in the state, almost every township, as my friend on the right has said, will have an agricultural society, because every body is looking simply to his own aggrandizement. In consequence new societies will spring up for support in every portion of the state. Is this a benefit to the agriculture of Pennsylvania? I say no. If the state could appropriate, we might have one in every township, but she cannot. We would drain the treasury of the state. We would get out more than we could put into it. I am willing to advocate an appropriation from the state but the question with me is how much to ask. This is going to affect the different societies of the state, the way we stand now. I am afraid that if this measure were adopted a burden would be thrown on the state that would result in the defeat of our aims to build up agricultural societies.

Now, as it was said by my friend on the left, why not settle on one

fair, and have it at Harrisburg instead of having it elsewhere, or divided up? Why have one in every township? We will admit that people go to fairs through curiosity as well as for education, or to have a holiday; but by and by, after they go to a few and get a little sick, they care but little about agricultural societies.

Who is it that supports most generally the agricultural societies of Pennsylvania? Take the practical farmer away, and where are your agricultural societies? Take away the great bulk of country people who visit the fairs, and the society will go down. In most instances towns people go through curiosity, whereas the agriculturist goes for instruction. Consequently I claim that it is better to have a large fair and a good one, than to have a half dozen poor ones. That is my opinion about it.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. If you will indulge me just a moment I would like to reply to my friend from Tioga (Mr. Mather), in a very few words, and it is this: That their case may be an exception, but it is not the rule. My knowledge of the fairs of this and other states, where I have been visiting frequently, is just the other way. That is, the more fairs we have in a district the poorer they are. The agricultural fair is conducted the same as any other business. In the manufacturing business, with too much production, or too much competition, they go down. The result is the same with agricultural societies, and they become poor as a rule.

Just compare it with another branch of business: Take the hotels—a town that can fairly support a good hotel, with a second one, neither of them is so good. With a third one, still worse. Yet some of us have been endeavoring to run the agricultural societies the same as the hotels, keeping them up at a great deal of expense in order to carry on the business.

Now, I think that one well-regulated agricultural society in a county is quite sufficient; that it will be patronized all the more, and made all the more useful. It can be made to concentrate all the interest in one place; and not only for the county, but surrounding counties as well. I think if this appropriation were made so as to transfer to all the counties of the state this amount of money, that it would produce more good for what it is intended than if it were divided up, and an additional number should have the appropriation. I think this amendment ought to prevail, I am satisfied that all the agricultural interests of the state will be the gainers.

So far as the state agricultural society is concerned, I am certainly exceedingly anxious to see it placed upon its feet; but that would not suffice to accommodate the farmers of our state, having them to go to Harrisburg, or to Sunbury, or any other place. That is an organization different of course from the county societies. The state agricultural society is generally open to the whole state, and in some instances to other states as well.

R. S. SEARLE. They take that around to different points.

G. D. STITZEL. If that is the case the expense of making the preparations and getting up the necessary exhibits, and holding your fairs, would cost more than it would come to.

R. S. SEARLE. I think if they would take it away from Philadelphia to Scranton, it would pay there.

G. D. STITZEL. I think that has been one of the reasons of the failure of the state agricultural society. I think if they had staid out of

Philadelphia originally, they would be better off to-day. I cannot see that the society accomplished anything by going there.

H. C. DEMMING of Dauphin. Inducements to go there were held out by the railroad companies, but after the society had erected permanent buildings in Philadelphia it became impossible to secure as low rates as if it had been located elsewhere. Then the Philadelphia people, or the great bulk of them, not being directly interested in agricultural, take little interest in agricultural and horticultural exhibitions. To this add the fact of very inclement weather for several years in succession, and the non-prosperity of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society in Philadelphia is readily accounted for.

R. S. SEARLE. If the state agricultural society can be aided to a sufficient extent to hold a first-class exhibition elsewhere, it seems to me there would be no doubt of success.

W. R. CRAIGHEAD of Washington. There is a question arising here that has been in my mind for some time, and I look upon it affirmatively: Are agricultural fairs and horticultural fairs a benefit to the community or to citizens at large? We are taking a pretty wide range on discussions; but this question I think is of importance in connection with the topic we have before us. If an agricultural or horticultural fair is a benefit, will more persons attend where there are two or three, than where there is one very large one, particularly where the distance is great, or the travel difficult? It is not the same way in all counties.

But there is some difficulty in reaching all points of my county, though the distance is not so very great. Then, if more persons will attend these fairs, will more persons exhibit where there is only one than where there are so many? The common farmers and stock breeders do not make a rule of going to shows or exhibiting there. Sometimes others have borrowed stock, and go from one fair to another, and take the premiums. Consequently, after farmers have had some experience with meeting exhibitors of that kind they do not care about exhibiting their own stock in competition. But if it is a benefit for them to go, and more go where there are two or three or four fairs than where there is only one, is it not more of a benefit to more persons to have more fairs?

N. SEANOR of Armstrong. I have listened attentively to my friends here, and have felt that I ought to give some information of the business methods of the society with which I am connected, as bearing upon this subject. We have a fair at Dayton, but there is not a railroad within about fourteen miles. We have strictly a country fair. We have had a fair at Kittanning in the same county—it being the county seat. We have also had fairs at Parker's Landing for several years. The fair have been held at our place for ten years. As to the appropriations, it has been made to the societies through the county commissioners. Year before last Kittanning having closed their fair we received the appropriation of \$100. Last year when at Parker's Landing they had a fair, the appropriation was paid to them. We tried to get the appropriation twice, because we had paid all our premiums and all our debts; but they gave it to Parker. With us, as I have said, sometimes there is no possible way of getting the hundred dollars. I notified the commissioners of the county of Armstrong about the money, protesting that it should not go to Parker. The commissioners saw they were caught, and sent immediately a petition to Parker, where the officers were sworn to it and returned it, and it was filed on the 8th of January,

1890. The auditors may not allow the order; and if they do not, the commissioners will issue another order on the affidavit that is now filed, and Parker will not pay them back. So in any event Dayton will be likely not to get the money. It is hard to fight when the same attorney is acting for the Parker and for the commissioners also.

Now, you see what trouble this appropriation has caused in our county; and there appears to be no rule as to how it should be paid out. It is left in the county commissioners' hands. If the law just stated who should receive the appropriation, there would be no trouble.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. I will not detain you with any remarks. This topic says "Should there not be an adequate state appropriation for the support of all societies conducted strictly for the promotion of agriculture and horticulture?" We should say yes or no to this. The Legislature has already said that there should be an adequate support in certain cases, paid by the county. Now the question is, shall we recommend that the state pay it? I ask for the question.

How can premiums be best offered to secure improvement in farm crops?

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. If they could put those premiums into a special premium, and each person entering for a premium to be required to pay a percentage, and competitors enter early in the season before they commenced the work, it will tend to make great competition—in the same manner that you offer sweep-stake premiums to the best animal, or anything of that kind, where you require a percentage of the premium to be paid when the animal is entered.

The PRESIDENT. The same as for entering horses.

R. S. SEARLE. Yes; for instance, I want to get our agriculturists to see how much wheat they can raise in Susquehanna. We go abroad to buy our wheat when we ought to raise it. Let a premium be given for the best acre of spring wheat, and competition to be open to everybody; to charge each person who enters five or ten per cent. of the amount of the premium. At the time they could state the variety and manner of treating the grain, and give a statement of everything in connection with it. That would be one way—my way would be that way. Where you just give an offer of a premium, say five or ten dollars, for the best acre of wheat or corn, or anything raised in the county, one man by a combination of fortuitous circumstances may raise an extraordinary acre of such a cereal. Then he will take an account of it and bring it before the society and demand a premium.

There you do not know anything about the process. If there were an entering fee, and a strictly accurate account of the mode of agricultural work, and how long it took to ripen, it etc., in my opinion it would help us all sometimes, and we could learn something about it. We do not learn anything by the fact of the information that a man in South Carolina had raised two hundred and thirty-five bushels of corn to the acre. The object is to gain and disseminate information.

J. W. LAWRENCE of Sullivan. Do I understand that every man that comes into this competition has to pay five or six per cent.?

R. S. SEARLE. Certainly, if he enters into competition to raise the crop.

A. FRAZIER of Venango. We tried that in our society. Owing to

the competition which followed, the entries amounted to as much as the premiums. We found it very successful.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. We have tried premiums for cereals of various kinds, and we have just offered them in the same way as for other exhibits. It has brought out a great many competitors, without paying any entrance fees at all. Now this question is a very broad one; and if we allow it for wheat, we should allow it for beets and potatoes, and everything else worthy. I think it is an extraordinary question. I think if anything in this list should be submitted to the societies to decide, this is one.

R. S. SEARLE. Then it comes to this point, will some be ready to exhibit without all paying for the privilege? Some have exhibitors' tickets, and some do not have any, but they would not charge the competitors anything.

G. D. STITZEL. Nothing more than to show grain or anything else. He must be an exhibitor, or he cannot exhibit anything. We require admission from an exhibitor who competes for acreage—anything in the cereal line, or field crops. Why we have rules to go out, in writing; and they have got to report as to the seed time, and as to the quantity of seed they sow, and the number of bushels to the acre, and the time of sowing, and the preparation of the soil—all these must come in and be verified before the judges who pass upon them; and it has worked right well. We have had no trouble, notwithstanding it has been done almost every year, both with corn and with wheat.

C. D. DERRAH of Bradford. I would add to the gentleman's motion, which has been seconded, that this be answered by paying special premiums in connection with a percentage as entry fee, and a description of the mode of raising the crop to follow it.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford county. It seems to me it would be entirely fatal to the whole thing, if you make the farmer pay it. The society should pay the premiums for the raising of these crops to induce them to do it, and there should be liberal premiums. It seems to me this will not induce farmers to do anything.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. Is not that the rule now when horses are entered for trials of speed? It would be as discouraging to those as the men who raise the wheat. The man who races his horses does not know whether he is going to get anything for it or not. Would it not be just as important for a man who enters into competition in the raising of grain to pay part of the percentage for the premium? Would it not stimulate him, if he knew he had to pay something for it, whether he obtained a prize or not? I believe he would put forth more effort to succeed and I think it is as fair in other cases.

C. H. DARRAH of Bradford. I intended, or wanted it understood, that they could enter this product within twenty or thirty days of the time of the fair. I would like to know what we would learn if it were left to their discretion?

If Mr. Brown raises two hundred bushels of corn to the acre, we would like to know when he planted it, and what kind of fertilizer.

J. A. GUNDY of Union. I think if we would require the entry a certain length of time before the fair—to make declarations that the party was going to compete—letting each farmer do that, and asking no money from him at the time, it would be a good plan. For instance, require him to enter for competition at a stated time beforehand, but leave it to his discretion as to how to raise the crop and, how to keep it.

Mr. HENRY of Clarion. If we want to know how a man is going to

raise his crops, we should want to know he *modus operandi*, but we should not make any closer inquiries than in regard to anything else. When you have that man give the date when he started to raise that crop, (letting that man pay like every other man does), if we do not get anything more in the way of knowledge than that he raised two hundred or two hundred and fifty bushels, we know only that that man tells the truth that far; we do not know how it was obtained. I was at a fair once where they had enormously large squashes. I made careful inquiry as to the methods pursued in raising them, and the woman in charge said she threw dish water on the squashes frequently while they were growing. You have what is aimed at by this illustration. If a man has an abundance of time and money, and brains, he can raise enormous crops. We want that man to get the premium, but before the money is paid out of the treasury, we want to gain from his method of raising the crop for which the premium has been allotted. Unless we get the information—putting something in for that which we take out—we are the losers, we suffer by the plan.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. When you hire any one to teach or educate your children, do you expect him to pay for the privilege of doing so? or, when a man puts in his seed, that he must pay you for the privilege, do you expect that for the privilege he shall come in and instruct you?

Mr. HENRY. This man has realized enough money out of this enormous crop to pay to the society the entry fee required of ten per cent. or twenty per cent.

THE PRESIDENT. How about the man who does not realize a premium?

Mr. HENRY. He is like the man who goes into a job, and comes out at the little end.

R. S. SEARLE. Mr. Stitzel says they give a small premium for an acre of corn, say about five dollars. That man pays one dollar, and expects fame for the privilege of competing. You know and I know a man is not going to heighten the general productiveness of his farm for the small pittance of five dollars; but if you offer fifty dollars, it will induce twelve or twenty men to enter into competition; and they will take the risk of the five per cent. entrance fee. Any man that puts his ground into suitable condition to raise the biggest crop that can be raised on that acre of ground, of corn or anything else, that acre will be worth \$20 more than the other acres; and it will stimulate the owner. We find that this age is controlled by competition. You cannot have a horse trot without a percentage, and you charge so much on it. If it is a small premium, it is expected that each shall pay a dollar, say, if the premium is \$10, that would be ten per cent, upon it and if \$50, the per cent. would be five times that.

J. A. HERR of Clinton. I have not heard all of this discussion, but I have heard enough of it I think to convince me that a man who experiments on his crop should be paid for it. Experiment stations are costly. I do not think you ought to put in the same category with the man who puts his horse on the track the farmer who raises a crop, and goes to work and threshes it, and keeps it all separate, thus going to a great deal of trouble and expense that is not required of the man who puts his horse on the track. In the first place, the man who enters his horse for a premium on trotting, is working only for that money; he is not working to educate anybody, but simply to gratify the pleasures of those who come to witness the trotting, and win the premium. In the other case it is an educational institution; and if you are going to

tax farmers for giving us an education, you may as well undertake to tax your teacher for educating your children. It is in the same line exactly. If a man is going to compete, he must keep an exact account—the preparing and planting, and cultivating and gathering and threshing. Five dollars is not going to pay that. If he raises an extra crop it is because he has put extra work on that acre, and he has earned it. I say that all entrances of that kind ought to be made free. Everything except trots. I do not believe in charging everything with an entrance fee.

JOHN HOFFA of Northumberland. I believe with Mr. Herr in that respect. It is enough if we raise a crop to show our neighboring farmers what can be done. You tell a man in our section to raise two hundred bushels of shelled corn, and he will not believe that it can be done. But when the corn is raised, and gathered, and measured, and found to be full weight, I think the man has had enough trouble. If he gets five dollars, pay him in cash, and not ask how he did it.

Last fall I was induced to compete with others in fruit, and bought and used a sprayer. I had the best crop of apples I ever had; but I didn't get a cent for them. Everybody wanted to know where the apple was grown, and wanted to know how it was done. But I didn't get a cent for it. The next fair, however, there were wagons at my house to buy apples at a dollar a bushel, and I got off clear enough. I had apples at home at big prices. They promised the *Agriculturist* for one year for my trouble and I bought the sprayer, and got the whole thing.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I think that is an argument why a farmer, if he competes, should pay the percentage of the premium. Otherwise, how are you going to raise money? You cannot run a fair without money. Where is your money to come from, if you do away with the special privileges, and cut out the horse trots? Some one has said that a farmer should not be charged for his exhibits; but the gentleman sold all his apples, and though he did not get a premium it was a great advantage to him. You start out with a large premium; and in order to raise a large premium let those competing for it pay a percentage. Men do not want to put in any money without some inducement. Let those who compete pay. It is a great advertisement for those who succeed, and an advertisement for those who do not. Unless a society gets an appropriation from the state, I do not see how we could well do otherwise; and I doubt if you can get the state to give, without an amended constitution. There was an appropriation of \$40,000 to the state society, and it was vetoed by the Governor because unconstitutional. How are you going to raise it without entrance fees? When you interest a man financially, you interest him all over. You touch his pocket book, and you touch his whole being. The moment you get him interested in an exhibit, he becomes interested in the fair. We charge a man a dollar if he competes for a premium. Sometimes the premium amounts to only two dollars, and that would make fifty per cent. entrance fees. Now, if we offer a larger premium, there is some inducement for him to improve his farm, and take some pride in it. You just get them interested, and they raise this money. You cannot pay before you have it, and to get this money you assess them ten per cent. or twenty per cent., or whatever it may be. You see it is common with horse trots to make them self-sustaining, because you charge them on the purse—charge so much to make an entrance, or so much before they start—and they generally get enough entrance fees to pay the

purse. In this case you have to make it large enough to be contested for.

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford county. For several years the agricultural display at our fair was very poor. At the meeting of the directors we considered that probably it would be better to have a finer display, and we offered a premium of fifty dollars; and the result was that our fair department was the best in the history of that association. It paid. People came there, and went away, and talked about it. We were so well satisfied that the next year we appropriated a like sum for a special premium; and I have no doubt that we will appropriate a similar sum this year. I do not think it is thrown away. We have to advertise a fair in order to draw a crowd. There is where we make the money, in the gate receipts; and unless you make the exhibition of unusual interest, no receipts will fall into the treasury to more than pay for the expenses. I am in favor of offering special premiums in this respect. I think the plan adopted by the Union Agricultural Association last year on the potato-raising contest was a good one. It required every one who entered for the special prize they conferred to have an acre of ground surveyed, at no cost at all, in order to commence right at the start. To be of any practical benefit, there must not be guess-work about the amount of ground used. Then we want to be sure when the crop is matured and harvested, that nothing but that crop is shown there. It may be considered a high percentage, in order to compete for the fifty dollars premium. Then to get an accurate description of the culture of the crop is certainly a benefit. I think that is what agricultural fairs are for.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. Then they have a description in the paper, too.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. I would not like to have it go abroad that we are paying a competitor five dollars for field crops. We have never broken up, although we pay more than five dollars. For samples of corn we make two appropriations, the first twenty dollars, and the second ten dollars. Now, we cannot pay out more than \$30 a year, if there are but two premiums awarded to this class, and we have made quite a success out of it; and farmers, notwithstanding you have given \$20 and \$10, have made little out of it, because of the expense incurred in cultivating the land separately, and extra well, and the fertilizer they used, and the expense and trouble of measuring the ground, and cultivating it in this way, and threshing it out, and the other expenses. So I suppose the cost would be nearly as much as the \$20 would pay. But the competition has grown up in this way, because some of the farmers wanted to show what they could do; and therefore they took a part of these burdens upon themselves.

Now, we have never offered to pay in these premiums more than \$60. I cannot by any means compare the competing for fall crops, or the raising of fall crops by the acre, to horse racing. As one gentleman here said, a farmer who raises fall crops has a different course to pursue compared with the horseman. There is where you try to make money, from premiums; and we have found it very satisfactory indeed. These men who have competed, have done it in such a way that they brought others in; and it has been quite an acquisition to our success, as we think, in awarding premiums. We used to ask an entrance fee from a farmer, we did not care what it was, whether for a cow, a bushel of wheat, or an acre of grain, and there would be a tremendous hitch.

Now we do not allow persons to compete for premiums, large or small, unless they pay for a member's fee.

The PRESIDENT. Pay for a ticket, which will admit them and their family.

G. D. STITZEL. Anybody that enters has to take out an exhibitors' ticket, as we call it. Whether he gets the premium or not, it costs him a dollar.

The PRESIDENT. What rights has he under that?

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. We generally give him four admission tickets when the exhibit warrants. But he must become a member of the society. On taking out a member's ticket he gives in a dollar; and that applies to the field crop as well.

Mr. DERRAH. The question is, "How can premiums be best offered to secure improvement in farm crops?" By offering special premiums, to be paid in cash, with an entrance fee, which is also to be paid in cash. The question is right here whether this entry can be made at any time within ten days of the opening of the fair?

Mr. MANLEY. You mean the percentage?

The PRESIDENT. You understand it now, that the premium be a large one, to be paid in cash, and that the person applying under that head must pay a percentage of what that premium is as an entrance fee.

JOHN McDOWELL of Washington. I am in favor of premiums being awarded for the best farm crops, and these to be awarded through the agricultural society. I have seen it tried, and I have known it to work well. I could give many reasons why this should be encouraged. I should follow up the experiments that have been made, or are now being made at the different experiment stations all over the United States—and I am getting the reports now from almost every station in the Union, and I am thankful for what they send to me. I think that a just settlement of this question would be the offering of premiums without requiring an entrance fee; and then we are bringing it within the reach of every farmer, and bringing it right home, and making it useful in the field and the meadow, and thus our farms can probably be brought to a higher degree of cultivation. I am opposed to any entrance fee being required. Let us have free and open competition.

J. A. ELLIOTT of Tioga. I am opposed to requiring an entrance fee. We should not keep any one back. We need it, as the people desire to see it. The results from such competition are interesting. If we have a good fair, we will bring the people there, and not otherwise come.

E. REEDER of Bucks. It makes quite a difference; the one that sells his right to the farmer at a dollar, because he cannot raise his money, if he gives him four tickets to come in, he cannot raise his money. But the society that charges for coming in at the gate can afford to give any man who comes in to exhibit a chance to come in if he comes to compete. If several farmers compete they evidently have some neighbors, and some that are interested. The way we have it they come to our fairs and pay at the gate, and get in; and we have enough to pay the premiums that we have offered.

So far as I am concerned, I would vote against this, from the fact that we receive the entrance money at the gate, and any one can come in and exhibit his products without any entrance fee at all. We think that is fair. This would not operate as well as the other.

We ought to know how we are off. For my part, I would vote against that motion, from the way that we act—that is, we take our money at the gate entirely.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. If we carry out in our societies what this gentleman represents, what is to prevent a great many exhibitors going away without paying a cent? They come when the gates are opened, and leave there until Friday or Saturday, and come and take the premiums, and go away with them. I know that a great many of our exhibitors pay in addition to the four tickets they get, and their neighbors pay, and fourfold, by coming to see how the exhibit is arranged. I certainly would be opposed to having anybody exhibit for competition without first paying something for that privilege.

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford. In my opinion we cannot run a ten thousand, twenty-five thousand, or fifty thousand dollar show by raising the same money for premiums. Some have ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty, and forty thousand dollars invested, and then we offer seven or eight thousand dollars for premiums. We have to raise the money; and it is to us about as six is to half a dozen. A man comes in and asks to be entered as a competitor in the raising of that crop, and pays five or ten per cent. of the purse. Eight other men enter, making nine, and eight men get left.

Who are eligible as delegates to this association?

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I may not perhaps be just in order in making the remarks at this time that I intend to make. But if you will remember, Mr. President and members of the Board of Agriculture, (you who were here a few years ago,) I was one of the first to advocate a meeting of the secretaries of the various local agricultural societies, the convention to be held at about the time the State Board of Agriculture met, either before or after. I did that for the purpose of receiving and giving encouragement, and the enlistment from other organizations of similar character co-operation, and enlightenment from persons engaged in the same work. I have been connected with a fair society, as its secretary, for fourteen years. I have taxed my ingenuity to its utmost to know what and how and where to look for exhibits, and enthusiasm, and for assistance in conducting a fair; and I thought it would be a good thing to organize a society of this character—to get the secretaries of all the different societies together at some one place, and discuss the methods that they have, and the theories that they have adopted, and which have been successful.

Now, we have met to discuss the topics that have been brought to our attention by the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. We have presented subjects ourselves as well as got them from him. But I have discovered that this is not just what we want. We do not get close enough together yet; we do not touch elbows as it were on this subject yet, of the management of agricultural societies. Now is it because your attention has not been called to one thought, or line of thought, on a particular line or subject? Is it because you have not time? We have been limited by a vote of this association to five minutes, when we have had an opportunity to talk.

Now I believe that for the next session it would be advisable to organize in advance—to elect delegates at least three months before the annual meeting—that those names should be reported to the secretary, Mr. Fox, or myself, or Mr. Edge, immediately thereafter. Then let subjects be assigned different persons to discuss, to prepare themselves

to give us their best thoughts from the experience that they have had, or their society has had covering a series of years. By this method I think more can be done than we have done here to-day. Of course we have settled, as I understand it, several matters which I think are important. But there are things to be done, that I would like to do, in the way of entertainment. Now the agricultural societies have put themselves in our country, and so far as I know in the State of New York, in the position of furnishing entertainment to the people. Mr. Smith tells us that in his county they have to have a horse trot—that nothing will answer but a horse trot. In other localities it is base ball. But there are some other attractions necessary. In other words you have to have a circus to get out the people. You may advertise, as one said to-day, all the horses and cattle in your section, and put all your blooded stock on exhibition, and the very finest that can be furnished; but as soon as the entertainment is announced to be held on the track they will all rush to see that. Now, what can we do—what can I do to assist my society in increasing the gate receipts to pay the premiums I have not heard here yet how I can do that. Of course there were remarks made here that, so far as we have gone, have been all right. But I would like to have an expression from some of the members here who have had experience, and know, if we cannot in the future, or at the next sessions, provide some means of getting instruction from the members that will be of more moment to us as secretaries, and as societies, than we have had here to-day. I am not finding fault with what we have had—for from the time I entered here I have been employed—and as regards the expressions of gentlemen, they have been interesting and profitable. But I believe we can do more than we have done.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh (president). I would just add a few words in addition to what Mr. Mather has said. His remarks have just brought to my mind that this organization started with the intention of having the agricultural societies throughout the state convene together once a year for the purpose of discussing different matters and making suggestions, and passing upon results, so as to benefit the various societies throughout the state. I do not want to bring the matter to a test, but if I were to ask those present who are secretaries of agricultural societies to rise in this audience, I think there would be a corporal's guard here. Now, in that respect this organization has failed. I think if some measures could be adopted that could bring to pass the attendance of the secretaries of the various local agricultural societies, we would perhaps be more thoroughly informed of the doings and workings of the agricultural societies than a great many of us are who do not fill that position. If that could be accomplished, I think that can be done. But I do not see how that can be done, without some means being provided to pay their expenses to meetings of this kind. If that could be accomplished, I think one obstacle would be overcome, at least in a great measure; for a great many agricultural societies do not feel like incurring the expense—and neither do the members of the societies, of paying the secretary's expenses of travel and board for two or three days to sessions or meetings of this kind. It is difficult to see how this can be remedied; and I suppose the matter must be left where it stands at the present. But still those who are here, and who have manifested an interest in this matter, should be thanked for the interest they have taken in coming here and freely discussing the different questions that have been presented. Let the report of these proceedings go out, and do what good they can.

Perhaps the time will come when matters in this direction will be changed, and more attention be given in a practical way for the benefit of agricultural societies.

I hope great good will be done as the result of our meeting together here, and that the benefits will be scattered throughout the state, and especially in the communities where the societies exist.

We have in our state I think nearly one hundred agricultural societies—at least more than ninety. With so many organizations of the kind, we certainly should be able to have one good convention a year. I hope our own local agricultural societies will see the necessity of an annual gathering, and the full importance of being represented and making provisions to have their secretaries attend as well; and when we go home, let us try, every one of us, to impress upon our different agricultural societies the importance of being represented here, so that an increased interest will be observable throughout the state.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford. I think the officers of this association should be held responsible for the lack of attendance of secretaries. It was not intimated in the programme that we should send them. "Under the rules of the Association every agricultural or horticultural society in the state is entitled to send delegates to represent it." Nothing said anywhere about sending secretaries. I am thankful, so far as I am concerned, that such was the case.

The PRESIDENT. I hope the gentleman will not understand it to be the rule, or the intention, to exclude other delegates.

T. S. MANLEY. I understand that. If in this programme or circular you had mentioned the word secretary, undoubtedly you would have had our secretary here. As soon as this was read, the motion was made and carried in the society that we send a delegate and pay his expenses, and I presume other associations did the same. But as to sending secretaries, that was not even hinted. I can see the propriety of it, because upon the secretary depends very much the success of our society, and especially as regards the fairs. It would be a blessing to our secretaries to meet and have a good conference, talking the various matters over.

F. M. McKEEHAN of Perry. I think if the secretaries of this association would address these circulars not to the secretary but to the president, it would be better, as it would more surely result in getting the secretaries here. All the societies want to know is that you desire to have the secretaries come together.

W. SHANAFELT of Clarion. We have in our county a number of members who are as much interested as the secretary, and who want to get as much information as they can in order that the exhibitions of their society may be a success.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I would like to say to the members that the president is not through with his duties for this year. You will remember that the president and secretaries of this association are formally to put into shape the constitution, by-laws and rules of order, and forms of procedure for the next meeting. Now, I shall insist upon the president doing that within the next six months, and that a copy be sent out to every society in the state. Then let them elect their delegates and send their secretaries to the next meeting of this association. Then, if the names of the secretaries and delegates are sent in promptly we will try and see whether some of them can furnish topics for discussion and subjects for action. Of course last year the meeting broke up very abruptly for want of time, and Mr. Fox went immediately

home, and we have had no conference since. Dr. Barnes and I had a conference at the meeting of the Board last year. At the meeting of the Board, which I hope will be held at Wellsboro', we will see whether we cannot come to some understanding after talking the subject over.

Should premiums be restricted to the county in which the fair is held, or should they be open to all?

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. I move you that this question be disposed of by recommending that they be open by all societies to all the country.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. That will work first rate as long as you confine yourself to Pennsylvania but when you are right along the New York State line I do not know whether it would be as well. I have doubt about it. It is a question where I should not want to say whether I was in favor of opening to all or not. It would depend a great deal upon circumstances. Up in our county, when any one outside came to compete we have given a diploma or certificate; but we confine our cash premiums to the county. It is a county agricultural society. It is a question really for each society to decide for itself, what would be for the best interests of that society.

It was mentioned here this afternoon by some one that there was a certain set of men who made up a show of cattle and such things, and traveled from fair to fair for the express purpose of taking up the premiums. We have such a class in our county. Mr. Jones who exhibits Devon cattle at the state fair of New York State, and goes to New Jersey, claims that he has received over \$900 as the result of exhibiting at fairs last year. It is hardly fair to our people who really have the premiums to pay, to have professional men gobble them all up. It is a question in my mind whether I should be in favor of voting affirmatively on this topic or not. I think that premiums by county societies should not always be open to all. There should be a great deal of discretion about it.

CHAS. LOTT of Warren. I live in a part of the commonwealth which is on the borders of another state, but we have always had our fairs open to all. Not only that, we have gone into Chautauqua county and invited them to compete with us, and have found it a benefit to us in that respect. I presume we shall do in the future as we have done in the past, and continue that same plan.

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. Our fair ground is located within seven miles of the Ohio line. Ohio is quite noted for good stock, and we get a good deal from there. We are always glad to have them come. Some of the best Shorthorns that I ever saw came from Ohio; but we do not care whether they come from Ohio or Kentucky, or any other part of the world. If they are fancy animals they attract attention, and the people who come are very much interested and taken with the stock. I for one would not care to send in the stock located in our township, as I want to see some of the most improved, though we have some cattle and horses that are fine. All kinds of stock I want to see, and the finest in the world; and I wish they would all come to our fair and compete. I have no doubt it would make the fair interesting; and I have no doubt that our brother who opposes, if we had the best stock we could get his quarter every day. And if we cannot get it I

question the success of this institution. We are, as I say, open to the world. Of course we do not get from far away. We have special herds—and in regard to the Camden herd, we invite them there; and if there is a county that can beat the Camden herd, it takes the banner. And that is right. But in order to stop this, and to induce others to make a fair competition, we offer as an inducement a special prize for the herd. It is very interesting for the spectators to look on and see five or six different herds of the finest cattle in the world competing together. There it becomes interesting to all concerned, and a man gains judgment by watching those cattle. Of course when one herd comes through the country, and no competition it is not so interesting, but when five or six come in contact, the interest increases. And not only that, but horses that come together from certain lines of stock—and we want all kinds we can to compete—it becomes interesting there also. When it is known that extra cattle and stock are coming we are sure of better crowds. Therefore, I am in favor of opening to the world.

W. SHANAFELT of Clarion. For a number of years some professional men came in with stock fattened up, and covered up with blankets, and made about as sleek as they could make them, but they did not get away with all the premiums either. However, I was glad to see them. I like competition, and like to look at good herds, and compare them; and our farmers come and are educated by seeing full-blooded fine stock at a fair. I for one am in favor of inviting the best stock in. If they have the best lot, give them the benefit of the premium. Then I want to get something better than they have. It is a good school. I think that is what a fair is for. We ask our state to appropriate money to our public schools, and she does it; and we have been asking to-day that the state appropriate money for fairs. I think it is right that she should. I think a fair conducted properly is a good educator of the people; and there is no way that they can be educated so well as by seeing different herds and comparing them when they are together; for thus they can note and weigh the merits of each.

MR. BULLARD of Crawford. I am in favor of having competition open to the world for all orders and classes. I am not very old, but I recollect the time in Crawford county—and I think it has as good stock as any county in the state—I recollect when it had not a thoroughbred animal of any kind probably in western Crawford county. Our fair has brought up the standard probably as far as any western county in the state in regard to thoroughbred horses and registered cattle. As to our condition compared with other societies, Ohio was ahead of us at those times, especially Durham stock and fine horses, but by their coming and competing with us, our farmers were educated up to the idea that they were not up with others, and now you cannot go upon a farm in our country, hardly, that you do not find some blooded horses and stock, or at least some above the common grade. We have always desired to educate our people by giving our premiums and inviting the world to compete with us. I think it has been the means of leading to one of the great successes in our county.

R. W. McKEE of Mercer. I am in favor of this resolution. We have always admitted those with us, and we have found little difficulty in extending an invitation to compete with us. We think it is an advantage for them to come and advertise their stock. If they want to do so, they can advertise to the benefit of our people; and it is for the purpose of educating our agricultural people that we hold the fair, and not for the purpose of making money.

W. CRAIGHEAD of Washington. I am in favor of this resolution, because we have always in our association at Burgettstown requested the attendance of the different breeders of stock, and to exhibit at its fairs, and we have not only been going outside of the county, but out of the state, and whenever we have succeeded in getting them to come there it has been a stimulus to those near by, because we do not want them to carry off the premiums. Consequently they put their stock in better shape, and if they were defeated totally one year, the next year they would make such an effort as not to be defeated.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. We in Lawrence county are situated as they are in Mercer and Washington counties, but we have always invited outside competition. I think it has been a good thing. We have had herds of Shorthorns from Ohio exhibited at our place. I was beaten this year, but I have been under the impression that I will have something to say next year. They did not get all the premiums by any means; it was a draw. The Western Reserve had fine cattle—the finest of any country around. The reason why is they commenced early. We would hear our farmers talking, "There is to be such a herd from Ohio, and I will go." Then they would go, be delighted, and make up their minds that they would try to have just as good stock, and it was successful; and the result is that our stock has been wonderfully improved.

J. H. LAWRENCE of Sullivan. I rise merely to ask a question or two, and that is, whether this applies to all manufactured articles—articles manufactured out of the state as well as in?

R. W. McKEE of Mercer. So far as we are concerned we have extended it to all manufactured articles.

The PRESIDENT. Are you ready to act on the question before you? I believe the motion was that premiums should be thrown open to all.

Should it not be the general rule that space used for advertising purposes or for selling goods should be paid for?

R. W. McKEE of Mercer. The way I understand that is, that the space any one goes to occupy on the fair grounds he should be required to pay for it. For instance, if any one comes in for the express purpose of advertising his goods, then the question arises, "Has he a right there at all?" I think that selling on a fair ground at public outcry is not a bad thing to have. I think some people are induced to come to a fair to buy goods, and I am satisfied if there were more goods they would come to fairs, if not for the sake of getting premiums, and it would be much better. I would much rather see, for my part, at agricultural fairs, public auction of exhibitions, or whatever was fetched there for exhibition or to sell, then I would to see running at the horse racing; I think there would be less danger of arrears there. I think that the man who goes on the grounds to sell his wares should pay just the same amount for doing that as is charged for selling things on the ground—that is, selling lemonade and such things, where they pay for the privilege. If any one goes on the grounds for the purpose of selling anything, I think he should be required to pay.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. I take it that is in reference to ground rents—lemonade stands, candy stands and such matters. There is always more or less space let out at every fair for signs, and similar

methods of advertising. That is, when they obtain that privilege they pay the ground rent. It is difficult, on reading this at first sight, to determine exactly what is meant; but that is what I thought. I am in favor of making these people pay for the privilege, if they come in there to make money. In that event we do not propose to give the applicant rent free.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford. I think if a man goes there to sell his goods that we should charge him for the space occupied in the building. No merchant goes to a fair except to advertise, and he advertises, too, his business, and we give him the privilege of selling, if he chooses to. If it is intended to cover that, I would say no. Outside of that, if a man wants to come there and sell whips or anything of that kind, he is charged for the space. But these other, I should certainly think that we would not get much display of manufactured goods of any kind—wagons, or harness, or anything of that kind—if we were going to make them pay for it out of their trade there for that purpose, and these men help largely to make up our fair.

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford county. I think that is the meaning of this ninth question in regard to merchants who come to make displays.

Question No. 11 is, "How can managers of agricultural fairs best avoid imposition on the part of the numerous class who purchase what are known as 'special privileges?' I think that signs, or lemonade stands, and others of that class, come under the head of what is termed 'special privileges,' and that this ninth applies to persons who come to advertise their goods.

SAML. McCREARY of Lawrence. We had a number of merchants who came and made an exhibition at our fair last fall. I do not know that they offered anything for sale; I am pretty well satisfied that they did not. I think they did not sell, or do anything of the kind. They brought their goods there to exhibit, and to show what they had down at the store, so that people would know where to go to get those things. There was a hardware firm which made an excellent exhibit of stoves, and they secured orders for seven or eight stoves while at the fair. Now, if this means that class of people, I would say do not charge them, I would be the last one to charge for anything of that kind. Relative to the sales spoken of, or orders, the goods were not delivered; they just received the orders, and the parties went to the hardware store and got the stoves. The stoves on the grounds were there for the purpose of exhibition, and the hardware men brought them up into the fair ground to make a show. Of course they were making an exhibit that took favorably, resulting in the ordering of a number of stoves.

F. M. McKEEHAN of Perry. There is such a thing as reading between the lines. The gentleman who spoke about the subject of special privileges touches the question which I thought should cover what the gentleman to the rear of me has moved to adopt, viz: By voting in the affirmative. My own impression is that we will do a wrong if we vote in the affirmative on this. My understanding of this is, after scanning it, that it takes in all our men who present or bring in exhibits. For instance, when a hardware man is allowed to bring to the exhibition ground a specimen of what he has to sell, or helps to bring there something which he may have for sale or in stock. The machine man brings there samples of his mechanism, and we advertise him. I think we should not charge him—I think we should not, by any means, ask him to pay for the ground.

But when you come to dealing with special privileges, such as flying

horses, or swings or stands, then charge them. If I understand this aright, it is applicable to that class of men who bring their machinery there for inspection and examination. Now, the more you can get in of exhibits of this kind—the more tractions and threshing machines, and planing mills you can bring in as your advertisements, the greater and better will be your fair. We say to the merchants and others, bring in your things; and we are glad to have them. Therefore, if I understand the position of this topic, I will vote no.

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. I would like to have the president decide in regard to what the meaning is of this term or expression. There seem to be different ideas in regard to the correct definition. It seems to me before we can discuss it intelligently we ought to have the true definition. Then we will know what we are talking about.

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. In reply to the gentleman, when we have a very successful fair, where goods are entered, as for premiums, we charge them nothing for the privilege of entering those goods. That is, when they are put in as a display. But where they come in, and especially if what they manufacture they sell, we charge for space. Again we realize much less by them, in permitting people to put their cards on the end of the main building, or wherever it may be—as high as \$25 to \$50 per sign. I think this refers to these privileges more than others to where people come there to sell goods and realize as much as they can; and when they do so, I do not see why they should not pay for the privilege. I think that is the question more than anything else, "Should it not be the general rule that space used in advertising or selling goods be paid for?" You find where men come into a fair and exhibit stoves and things of that kind that they sell very few; and they do not dispose of them there. I think the question applies to persons who want to sell goods without competing for premiums, but working for their own benefit.

J. A. ELLIOTT of Tioga. There are certain exhibits that we are anxious to get there, which are a show in themselves. They may sell some. We like to have traction engines come there, and saw mills. These men possibly make sales; but I do not see how we can charge for them. Then there is a class of men who are willing to pay for space, I do not see how we can have any special rules for them. We do not allow the dry goods man to go there and make a sales place of it, but he may take some sales there. We could not charge him for it if it is an attraction. Anything that has an attraction at a fair we might want to see that; and if we had an attraction we might want to exhibit it, but could not afford to pay for the privilege.

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford. It is with us the understanding that no goods shall be delivered until the close of the fair. The other class that we denominate "fakirs" we always charge for space. I think that is about the only distinction we can make.

The question was put on the motion to answer question No. 9 in the affirmative, and agreed to.

How can managers of agricultural fairs best avoid imposition on the part of the numerous class who purchase what are known as "special privileges"?

J. P. BARNES of Lehigh. The majority of those folks try to impose upon the managers of the fair grounds. By imposition I mean that every now and then they claim more ground than they are entitled to. With us, if they do this once the next time they try to transact business on our grounds they are not permitted. Then there are others who agree to pay a percentage, and invariably come out short. I think it applies to both those. There may be impositions otherwise. But the best way I think is to make them pay in advance, and then you have no trouble on that score.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. We have adopted the plan in our society of making them pay in advance. Heretofore we have been trusting to their honor, but usually have lost 50 or 100 per cent. of the amount they promised to pay. Last year we made them pay as they came into the grounds. Then, to prevent any violation of the laws of the state, or the society, we have some one to look after them when they come in. They are allotted a certain amount of ground, and we expect them to occupy that ground in the way they agree to occupy it. If they sell anything not in accordance with the laws of the society or state, we just simply set them out.

W. H. H. RIDDLE of Butler. Do you have them sign a contract to that effect?

ROBT. McKEE. We make an agreement with them—we do not write out a contract to that effect. There is no need of a contract with a man who violates the law of the state. In the first place he agrees to go in there and sell certain articles. If he violates that agreement, or there is a violation of the law of the state or society by any one, the contract becomes void; and if in violation of the law of the state he is liable to arrest. When he does that, we take him to town.

W. H. H. RIDDLE. Suppose it is a violation of the society laws and not of the state laws?

ROBT. McKEE. We do not suppose he will violate anything unless it is the law.

W. H. H. RIDDLE. I propose to bring up in this question the manner in which we have operated for quite a while. There are a great many persons coming around for "special privilege," and one thing and another, and they are very apt to present it very forcibly; and it all looks well when they present it; but when we see it on the fair ground, sometimes, it is some form of gambling; and there are various ways by which these privileged men can take advantage of the society. I have had charge of these men for a number of years, and I find that the only way you can control them is to have carefully drawn contract, of course making it very much one-sided, and very much in favor of the company, because you have a very rascally element to deal with; and when they have overstepped the mark in any respect the contract declares that their privileges are forfeited. We have acted upon that for two years, and I think it is the most effective way that the question can be met. For instance, we made a lease on behalf of our society to a man to be engaged, I supposed for the purpose of throwing balls—I don't know what you call it, but they catch them in a net—or, rather, they throw at a darkey who appears at a hole in the canvas. After a while

the party thought it would be more fun if he would use some rotten eggs, and the first thing I knew he was permitting them to throw rotten eggs, which destroyed persons' clothing, and made matters very unpleasant generally in the vicinity. As soon as we discovered that we invited him off the grounds, and annulled his contract. I just simply mention this by way of illustration.

I think all societies should have a contract prepared, and just as soon as a violation is noticed have those men led off the ground. It is necessary to do that in order to bring about a better and more healthy state of affairs. It is certainly a very effective remedy. At least it has been with us after practicing it two or three years.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford. We require 50 per cent. before the name of the party is entered on the books, and he must pay the other 50 per cent. by noon of the second day. There are nine directors. Every director knows what is admitted on the grounds. If anything is done or sold contrary to the rules of the society it is reported to the president, and he orders the violator off the grounds. This is carried out rigidly, and I think it is effectual.

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford. I would like to ask the gentleman a question: Who has the contract or retains it?

Mr. RIDDLE. We retain a copy.

Mr. DERRAH. We have followed this for years, but have never seen it so managed elsewhere.

Mr. MANLEY. You get your rent in advance, do you not?

Mr. DERRAH. Yes sir; and more than that, we claim the right to claim all the property that the party has on the grounds for the rent.

A GENTLEMAN. Who attends to this business, the directors?

Mr. RIDDLE. One of the executive committee.

C. H. DERRAH. We have one man who attends to it at our place. It was the custom, or it was tried I think at one time, to have a committee appointed to attend to these privileges, and they would see one member of the committee, who would say, "Yes, you can have that place there;" and another member of the committee would say another place on the fair grounds—and the first day there is a row, and sometimes right off. By placing this in the hands of one person, and having a contract of what the privileges are, I do not think we will have any difficulty. At least we have not had any in three years.

J. P. BARNES. In Lehigh county, when a man makes application for space, the inquiry is how much he has, what he has, and what it will be; and, if the answers are satisfactory, the price is fixed and the position on the grounds located. He gets the privilege of selling, or the privilege of doing whatever he has asked for; and that privilege is on the card. If he violates that card, it is understood that he forfeits the privilege he has, and he is ordered off the grounds, and the place is staked off to the next. If the party does not violate or forfeit his privilege, he continues on during the fair, but if he violates he is led off, as stated.

W. H. H. RIDDLE. I move that the question be disposed of by putting it in this form, That the question of special privileges can best be disposed of by reducing the question to a contract between the society and the purchaser.

The PRESIDENT. Between the society and the lessee.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I move you an amendment to this motion, that this question be placed by societies in the hands of one person, and that the whole privilege be in the nature of a written contract.

The question was put, "How can managers of agricultural fairs best avoid imposition on the part of the numerous class who purchase what are known as 'special privileges?' That the matter be placed in the hands of one person by the society, and that the contract be in writing. Agreed to.

Is a speed premium essential to a successful fair?

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. The next question might be whether a trial for speed would come under the head of an agricultural society or an agricultural horse trot? "Is a speed programme essential to a successful fair?" They have them in some places, and some places they do not; but as a rule all over the state it has been found that they get more money out of a horse trot than an exclusively agricultural society. But it is demoralizing from beginning to end, and no good man should go in for patronizing horse trots before an agricultural society. I believe they should be kept separate and distinct. Still I know there are a number who disagree with me on that subject.

Mr. BULLARD of Crawford. I have been the president of our society for a few years, but we have never run it in connection with horse trots. At the same time, I believe that a reasonable chance should be given to show the qualities of horses by their breeders. In order to convince others that we have good road horses we have to show their speed. What is more important to a good farmer than a good road horse? It may not be in some sections, but in western Pennsylvania we believe it important to have a good road horse. How are you going to have one unless you breed for that purpose? and the breeder, when he exhibits, should be permitted to show what speed his horses have. We give a small premium of from five to ten dollars. Last year we did go as high as fifty dollars in a purse divided into four parts. We think it an advantage to us. We think we have as good a county for horses as there is in this state. If the breed farmers have no chance for their horses, they have to get up an extra trot. We exclude all pool-box business, and no betting, or anything of that kind with us. When it is carried on in that way I am in favor of it. I do not like to show the kind of a spirit, that a man of good morals should not tolerate in any proper way the speed of horses. I do not think that is a good sentiment, but that the horse is an important factor in our exhibitions.

Mr. BERRY of Washington. In our own county we would say this would apply to everybody outside of this county. Then do not, please, be offended, because I do not mean it for anybody in the county at all. I like to drive a good horse as well as anybody else. I am a little like the old gentleman when they wanted to put an organ in the church. The question went all around; and some said "I want an organ;" and others said, "I do not;" but those favorable to an organ were in the majority. Whereupon he said "if we must worship the Supreme Being with an organ, just put in as good a one as you can." And so with a horse. If you are going to have a horse trot make them come under the national rules. I do not think we can have a successful fair without having more or less horse trots; and as we must have an organ let us have a good one.

R. S. SEARLE. Did you ever know of a horse trot on a track but that somebody would be betting on the result?

Mr. BERRY of Washington. Is there not a law against betting, and does not the law make it a penal offense?

R. S. SEARLE. It does also for drunkards.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford. "Is a speed programme essential to a successful fair?" If the topic is discussed on that question, just as it is written, it is not essential, because I can prove here by these gentlemen that a very successful fair is run without a horse trot. I am personally opposed to speeding, but I am the president of a society which is composed of men who love their horses as they love their wives. They like to see their horses trot, and I like to see horse trotting. The stock is owned quite largely by that class of men, and then it is distributed out among the farmers throughout the country. Each one wants to be represented in that which he loves; and that is what leads him to effort to have a successful fair. I would propose to leave that to the stockholders and directors of the fair association.

W. H. H. RIDDLE of Butler. I want to ask my friend from Susquehanna county (Mr. Searle) this question: Suppose in the best fair ground in the State of Pennsylvania, with a ring to it, were the finest horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, and everything else, and that all other things on exhibition were equally good, and in the center of that fair ground a horse race was going to take place. Suppose, furthermore, that everybody was engaged looking at these various exhibits, and it was announced that a race was about to take place; where would he expect to find the people? What is the experience of every person? Every man wants to see a horse go; and it is not limited simply to the young man, or to the vulgar, or to the immoral, but you know as well as every other person that the good as well as the bad can be found looking at a horse race.

Now, I do not advocate horse racing, and I am not in sympathy with the business. Our association, taking the members thereof as individuals, are all opposed to it. It is a very disturbing element, certainly, but I believe that it is essential. I do not believe that you can have a fair without it that will be a success in every instance. The gentleman who has spoken may be able to direct us to one case; but take all the fairs over the country, and what do the people go there for? They go to be amused, and just as soon as the race is called they break for it. I recollect of one instance at a fair, where it is said there were 18,000 on the ground. We were induced to let people in free, in some instances, to see the conducting of a chariot race. I recollect of letting some people in, among the number two clergymen, a prominent Presbyterian and a prominent United Presbyterian. When the chariot race came off it was noticed that they were hanging on the fence, and just as anxious to see as anybody else.

I think a speed programme is necessary to make up the amusements. Of course I oppose all the attendant evils, and I think they ought to be eliminated, but as long as fairs are held in this country, and conducted to be made successful, they will be attended with that kind of amusement.

J. A. ELLIOTT of Tioga. Speed programmes are not essential. We have held eleven fairs, and this plan has never been adopted. I claim that no more successful fairs have been held in the state than ours. I might say that we have other amusements to take the place of trotting matches. As the question reads, I feel I must stand here and say that it is not essential.

CHAS. LOTT of Warren. With us it is a necessity, and without it, I

think it would be impossible to conduct our fairs. We have always been able to pay our premiums. This year we raised over five thousand dollars, and had a surplus to pay one thousand five hundred dollars on an old debt, for repairing the grounds and erecting more buildings. In some localities trials of speed do not seem to be necessary, but in other localities they are essential to success. I am opposed to every kind of gambling, pool selling, and everything of that kind on the ground. But when your horses go around on the track, the males and the females—and I do not care who they are—will be there. I move that this be left to the localities to settle for themselves.

JOHN McDOWELL of Washington. I second the motion, because I would like to have this settled without further discussion.

R. S. SEARLE of Susquehanna. As so many have been firing into me, I would like very much to be heard. One asked me if there was a horse trot, whether the people would not run there? I ask the gentleman, if there was a dog fight, or a man fight, wouldn't they do the same thing? Yet I say they are not essential. Another said, wouldn't you be likely to be found there with the rest of them? I reply, if there was a good fair and square trot I would like to see it. But there is such a thing as looking at a trot, which may be quite different from recommending it. I am here representing the Susquehanna Agricultural Society; and I take it that if others must have speed premiums it is not essential with us.

Another thing, our real estate came to us, or a large part of it, through the gift of a Quaker gentleman, who helped us to buy that land, with the stipulation that we never offer a speed premium. We have held forty odd successful fairs, and never had a speed premium. I have no objections to other gentlemen in other parts of the state getting up a premium list on speed, especially if they cannot get gentlemen outside to help them.

W. H. H. RIDDLE. You have no tracks?

R. S. SEARLE. We could have one. I would say, however, that we have regular horse trotting associations in Susquehanna county.

G. D. STITZEL of Berks. When the motion is put, I think I will vote no. I think we are shirking some things here that have been placed before us to decide. I do not want to unnecessarily discuss these, but I think we should take the bull by the horns, and vote no.

CHANDLEE EVES of Columbia. I hope we will decide as the gentleman from Washintgon (Mr. McDowell) and others have suggested that we should.

THE PRESIDENT. The motion is this, as I understand it: That the societies shall regulate this matter in their own localities according to their own desires.

Mr. LOTT. If it is the desire of the members of this convention, I will withdraw my motion.

Vice-President McDOWELL. Yes; and let the question come up on its merits.

THE PRESIDENT. Then we come back to the original question, "is a speed programme essential to a successful fair?" Yes or no.

Upon a vote being taken it was decided in the affirmative.

How can the greatest interest of farmers, and citizens in general, be aroused in a local society?

W. H. H. RIDDLE of Butler. I think that question can be best answered by stating that an agricultural society should undertake to make itself interesting to a community, just like a business man would undertake to make himself interesting and have the confidence of those whom he expected to have as his patrons. Of course there are a great many ways by which these things can be done. To start out with, I think an agricultural society should intend to pay its premiums whether there were rain or shine; because, if a man is awarded a premium, he expects it. Another thing, I would have those premiums paid to him while he is there—paid right on the ground. Some people think that cannot be done. It has been done by our society for twelve years. We never allow a man to leave the ground until he gets his money, and we do not require him to stay long to get it. We have our premium list all arranged, and the judging all done, so that we can pay out our premiums the last day of the fair, and it is understood by everybody who comes that the premiums will be awarded before the exhibitors go home. If they are only allowed a quarter, they can get it before they leave. I think honest, square dealing is what everybody wants. It inspires confidence in the management, and the exhibitors and others are satisfied.

J. H. LAWRENCE of Sullivan. I can endorse everything that the gentleman has said. I think when a man takes his stock to a fair, that he has a right to expect his premiums when awarded, or within a reasonable time, and that they should be paid in full. I also think that by opening the doors to all to compete, that it deepens the interest of every prudent farmer, who will then try to have as good as that from outside, whether from another county or another state. If one year an outsider carries off the premium it leads to a spirit of humiliation at home, and they do not care to be beaten the next year, and they propose to take the first premium, if possible. We advertise and have succeeded admirably in awarding a premium to grangers in this way: The grange that makes the best exhibit to be awarded a premium of seventy-five dollars; and a second premium of fifty dollars to the next best exhibit; and this has brought to our fairs perhaps more than any one thing, that which helps to make our fairs a success. A grange that has taken the first premium secured it for two years in succession; but this year, to their regret, they had to take the second premium. The day after the fair closes is about the time that they commence to prepare that by which they intend to excel at the next yearly exhibit. By this plan there is an immense amount of material presented very desirable, and which adds very much to the attractiveness of the fair. At first the directors thought that my suggestion was a very bold one, and that an exhibit could be made by a grange for less than seventy-five dollars; but they now see that they get for seventy-five dollars more of an exhibit than in any other way. I throw out this suggestion that gentlemen can adopt it if they see proper. I assure you that now we would hesitate long before we would consent to give up the awarding of this premium.

N. SEANOR of Armstrong. The question is "how can the greatest interest of farmers and citizens in general be aroused in a local agricultural society?" I would answer this question, by raising the premiums.

We are living in a farming district, and for nine years we had the premiums uncommonly low at our fair—so low that they would not fetch the stock any more to compete. Year before last the county fair blew out in Kittanning, the same county, and the next year it had to be at Dayton. I was one of the men selected to revise the premium list, to induce the people to come to the fair, and we went to work for that purpose. We raised the premiums nearly one-third. Year before last we had thirty or forty entries, and last year one hundred and fifty-six. We had one of the best fairs, and the most successful, we have ever had. I think all through we had larger premiums and paid them. I believe that is one of the best ways of arousing the greatest interest of farmers and citizens in a local agricultural society.

J. H. LANDIS of Lancaster. It seems to me there is a misapprehension in the minds of gentlemen here in regard to the meaning of this twelfth question. It does not mean how can the largest number of entries be obtained, or the greatest interest manifested in the premiums—it reads, "how can it be aroused in local agricultural societies?" And the gentlemen have discussed this question as though it had reference to agricultural fairs. In our county we have an agricultural society that meets once every month. We have a general debate, and generally deferred questions in addition; and I think the way to arouse the deepest interest on the part of farmers and agriculturists generally in holding agricultural societies is to adopt some method whereby there is given an opportunity for discussion or debate. During the past year one question we discussed was in reference to cattle food—does cattle feeding pay in our part of the state? Another question we discussed is the road question, and at another meeting the cause of the decline in agriculture, and at another the anti-discrimination question, and the discriminations that were practiced on the part of the railroad corporations against the agricultural societies of our own state, and so on. We found whenever we had a live question for discussion, which we announced through the county papers several weeks prior to our meeting, our meetings as a rule were well attended, and we had an interesting discussion. The meeting was almost sure to be followed by a large attendance of farmers at the following meeting. I think the way to enlist interest on the part of farmers in agricultural societies in largely agricultural counties is to adopt live questions for discussion, and then for all the members to take as active a part as possible, and to induce as many farmers as they can to attend and participate in the discussions. We generally have the local papers to give full accounts of the proceedings, which are generally read by the agricultural people. By doing so we have an impetus given to the agricultural interest in our communities, in which our agricultural people as a rule take a deep interest.

DAVID WILSON of Juniata. I think the way to arouse an interest in farmers is to enlist as many persons in a society financially as possible. Most agricultural societies are made up as a stock company, and the stock can be scattered all over the county. You interest a man financially, and he will talk of the fair as "our fair;" not Mr. Jones' or Mr. Jefferson's fair—for they have paid for a little stock. Another way is by entering the homes and interesting the farmers' sons. Encourage them to raise a colt, or a calf, or to put out a field of wheat. In this way the interest deepens and widens. Get the home people interested; and when you have them interested at home, the interest will extend from the home circle to the neighbors. Let a great many young men have a little interest in some way. Get the boys and girls to talk up

the fair and say "our fair." I think in that way as much interest will be aroused as by increasing the premiums. I think we ought not to pay a man to come out to vote, or to go to church. If a man does not take enough pride to go to a fair only because of taking a premium on his stock, I would not have much faith in that man. I would about as soon hire a man to be a christian, or almost as soon, as to have to pay him to go to a fair. A man's interest is not very great if for a few paltry dollars, or anything else, he is very much upset; and such men do not do fairs any good. I think the right man is one who can take an interest, not because he is a stockholder, but because it is something for the benefit of the whole community.

E. REEDER of Bucks. As I understand the last question it has no reference to a fair: "How can the greatest interest of farmers and citizens in general be aroused in a local agricultural society? Every grange is a local agricultural society, and so is every farmers' club. Our society has recently adopted this plan: they assigned one and the same question to three members, for each to produce and read an essay upon that question. That was done at the last meeting. It brought out a great deal of interest and a large attendance. Each of the three members answered the question from his standpoint, and according to his own views, and it brought out so much discussion that the subject was laid over until the next meeting. The papers were fully reported—the fact is, they were published in full.

At the next meeting a series of resolutions will be offered and discussed, and each resolution will embody the sentiment expressed in each particular paper. This appears to be the most lucky expedient we have ever adopted in getting people to attend.

J. B. SMITH of Luzerne. Almost every county has its way of running a fair, and I will give a little of my experience in connection with our county organization. There is hardly a person that goes to a fair in Luzerne county—the coal regions—that goes to look at the hogs or the cows, or anything of the kind. The great question is, When will the big trot come off—the trot for the prizes? If we have good horses and good weather we will succeed at our fair; but if we have poor trots, poor horses, and unfavorable weather, we will not succeed.

I was in Tioga county eight or nine years ago at a fair, and it was the largest gathering I think I ever saw. There was no horse trotting at all. They were just about twenty miles from Elmira, and they came down from New York State with their products and a tremendous crowd. I think they had 10,000 people there. But in our county without a horse trot you have hardly anybody there.

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. I adopt rather the remarks that have already been made, but I was hesitating in what I was going to say and which side to take. I commenced to talk about the fair, and wanted to say something about it, but I didn't know how the decision would be on that matter, and it rather puzzled me. However, I am willing to accept all the remarks that have been made upon the subject, and to say a word about agricultural societies—that is, the exhibition societies. Now, our society (as we are talking a great deal about our fairs to-day) is a mutual society; and in order to keep that up we have got it into the minds of the people—we try to imbue the minds of the people with the idea that it is necessary for every man to put his shoulder to the wheel and help push it along, and thereby get every man to help to a great extent. We manage our fair in a different way from any other. We have mutual society, and we charge for exhibits an entrance fee.

That entrance fee is fifty cents. One thousand things at fifty cents, or only one, fifty cents; if a man has been coming there every year and entering one hundred articles every year, it would be fifty cents if he brought but fifty articles.

Now, there is a point connected with that matter that I think is a very beneficial one to be looked at. A man has a dozen different things on his farm that he calls good, and it does not cost him anything, more than to take them there and pay the fifty cents; and by paying fifty cents he becomes a member for a year. We try to encourage all the entries we can. We meet a friend who has a farm, and we ask "Are you going to take anything to the fair?" "I guess not." "Why, you must take something; you have something on the farm which is interesting;" and when you go to the fair it is astonishing to see the amount of produce that is brought there. Over 4,000 entries, the president just tells me, have been made to our fair. One of the members speaks of the number of horses—eight hundred entries of horses alone at our fair. So you see we have quite a concern there for a county society. We try to encourage every one to make an exhibition. When a man steps up and tries to do something for himself, I maintain that that man becomes more or less interested, and he really has stock to the extent of his interest in the society. If he had nothing there he would not be interested long; but by putting something in his interest is heightened, until he has a large interest there. We are generally pretty fortunate, and come out quite well. Just for illustration, a few years ago we had a little bit of a fair, and I made several entries. The secretary was much crowded. It was a great year for pumpkins; and I had two remarkably large pumpkins that I thought I would take down there for exhibition just to see what would be the result. There was a man immediately ahead of me making entries, and I sat down and waited for my turn to come to have my entries recorded by the secretary. The person ahead of me entered the pumpkins, got his card, and put on the name of the exhibit. I think it was about No. 40. There was another man sitting there waiting for him. He came in just after me. When I came to the pumpkin list, I said I thought I would not make any entry. I turned to the gentleman and made the same remark. There were forty ahead of me. He said "That is just what I was going to do, enter my pumpkins; but I guess I won't do it." Now this incident only alludes to a small article like a pumpkin. When people go there and see all manner of pumpkins it becomes interesting to look over the immense display, and to note the part taken by the competitors; and more than one will wonder where they all grow. It is thus easy to keep up the interest throughout the week; and by making it mutual, by having all take part for their own special benefit, the fair is made a success.

In regard to the other societies that have been referred to, societies for agricultural meetings and discussions, I am entirely in favor of them. They are good things. I think myself there should be a good farmers' club in every community. Where various questions are brought out farmers become more intelligent, and can hold their own better in conversation and debate. Heretofore as a class we have had much to contend with, but at the same time we are to blame because we are not more intelligent. For my part I believe in increasing our intelligence, and increasing our products all through the country wherever we are located.

Should premiums for speed be awarded under the rules of some leading trotting association?

C. H. DERRAH of Bradford. I am not in favor of trotting, but I believe whatever trotting there is, should be under the rules of a trotting association, for this reason: If you trot a horse at a county fair, he makes a record. But it is a record that cannot go on record. Still he makes the time that prevent him going into a trotting association under that record. That is, he has not a registered record; and this stands in the way of men who are breeding for valuable horses, with which they wish to make a record. For instance, if a man has a mare that he wishes to make a record, if the time made is less than thirty, she becomes a standard; and he can make her valuable with such a record. Now, at a county fair she may trot in 2.25, and yet not be eligible to register; but if the society belongs to the trotting association, and she trots a mile in 2.29, one-half or three-fourths, he is eligible to register her. Therefore I think, for the sake of breeders, that we should all be under the rules of some trotting association.

The PRESIDENT. That qualifies the animal and she cannot impose upon those with a slower record.

C. D. DERRAH. Yes sir. If a horse trots at less than twenty-five, that horse can be taken on a regular horse track and trotted without using that record; for as yet she has not a good record. She cannot be put on the registry except the trotting has been done on an association track.

D. WILSON of Juniata. I do not understand this as does the gentleman who has just preceded me. This is not to order a fair association to permit trotting—this is not whether there should be an association track or not—it is whether you shall publish that the trotting shall be under the rules of the trotting association. The gentleman has taken the position that the track should be. Now, there are a great many fair associations that have tracks that do not belong to an association at all.

C. D. DERRAH. I think the gentleman misunderstands me. You make your arrangements, or the county fair may make their arrangements, and say, we will trot according to the rules of some trotting association. That does not give you a record; you are not doing good. You can bring them on the track so you cannot be trifled with. But it does you no good so far as the record is concerned.

D. WILSON. It refers not to the association or track, but whether the purses shall be distributed according to the rules of the association or not. I think it is better disposed of by the fair association itself. But if they desire the purses to be paid out according to the rules of the trotting association, and if they desire the entire track to be governed by the rules of the national association, it is different. Of course most all persons are controlled, and they say the purses shall be controlled, by the trotting association, and establish rules of their own. I know at our fairs the track is not under the rules of the national association, or the board, but we control the purses by the same rules. A horse can be protested under the rules advertised; and it has been understood that all the rules of the National Trotting Association shall be observed, just as a society shall say that it shall be governed by the rules of the House of Representatives. I think this question had better be left to the agricultural societies, to run their own fairs according to their own interests, and not take any action upon it.

F. M. McKEEHAN of Perry. I do not look at this exactly as some others. If you bring down upon these parties the rules of the national association, they will all know when to come to time. I think it is possibly very well that all fairs having trots should adopt the national or some other association's rules, and I think that we may safely vote this in the affirmative. You can do no better. If you have a reputation for bringing every person to the general rule, they will know how to comply, and if a contestant fails to obey the rules of the national association, he is ruled off the track. If you have divers rules and regulations you only make interminable confusion; but if you adopt the general rules, and such as to bring the most illiberal and uncouth fellow to terms, and hold him to the rules of the trotting association, you are far better off in the end. There is no difficulty at all, I think, in the way of this association adopting this in the affirmative. I therefore move that we reply affirmatively to this question.

The motion was seconded and unanimously agreed to.

How can farmers be induced, through agricultural societies, to raise better stock.

T. S. MANLEY of Bradford. The natural result of agricultural societies is to aid farmers in raising better stock. Our societies have done a good deal through the offering of premiums for fine stock, and restricting them to the rules of registered thoroughbred stock, either by excluding those that are not thoroughbred, or just making a difference in the premiums, by offering larger premiums for thoroughbreds. As a result of that a greater number of farmers—if there is anything in thoroughbreds, which most farmers now believe, I think—have been induced to introduce thoroughbred stock. This has led to great changes in our section of the country. Ten years ago, I could count all the thoroughbred cattle in west Bradford on my fingers. Now we can count them by hundreds. Then we had very few blooded horses. Now we have many, not only traveling horses, but draft horses, of all the leading breeds of thoroughbreds. The natural result of our fairs in my opinion is better stock throughout that section of country influenced by the annual exhibitions.

ROBT. McKEE of Mercer. I think that agricultural societies have been the means of increasing the quality of stock in all the different counties around in the section that I have any knowledge of. I think, as has been remarked, that there is a standard to which we can attain; and that one thing we can do as agricultural societies is to call the farmer's attention to the fact, that if he expects to draw premiums, he must have thoroughbreds not only of cattle, and horses, but also of sheep. We found quite a difficulty in our way a few years ago in reducing the sheep to thoroughbred, as much so as anything we have had in our fairs for the last ten or fifteen years. In the course of that time we got, without much trouble, the cattle to be thoroughbred, but it is only within a few years that we have been able to obtain that result with sheep. We have some very good sheep men in our neighborhood, but it was some time before they reached the stage that they would register. But those men have now changed their minds, since we have got to registering, and they think it is one of the best things they can do. We have at all times tried to induce them to introduce thorough-

breeds, and to have thoroughbreds in all kinds of stock, wherever it is possible to have it done.

J. B. PHELPS of Crawford. I would answer that question by not giving a premium to any grade male stock. Perhaps some societies have not got that far yet that they can do that. But don't you see that if we adopt better stock for the country, that it all comes by using thoroughbred males, and it is the quickest way we can get better stock, and we grow up faster in that way? If we will not give any premiums, or countenance male grades at our fairs, our farmers will not be encouraged by that method of training. Then, again, they should all be registered—not thoroughbred, but registered.

Now, there may be some societies, as I said before, who are not ready for that question yet. They can offer a premium, or a class, for graded stock, but not males for stock breeding purposes. For instance, grade cattle, grade sheep, grade hogs, or any other stock; but not to give the first premiums to a grade male for stock purposes. That is one way I would act to advance the interests of farmers, and induce them to raise better stock. I think that would be the quickest and best way to bring about the desired result.

W. CRAIGHEAD of Washington. I just wish to give the way in which we went up from grade stock until we do not now offer any premiums for anything of a grade character excepting horses. No premiums on grade cattle, sheep or swine. They are to be registered to be eligible. The way we commenced that was by offering a higher premium for thoroughbreds or registered stock than we did for grades. This continued for a few years. During the past four years we have not offered any premiums for grades, except, as I said, on horses. Our cattle consist usually of Shorthorns, and Jerseys or Alderneys sometimes generally both—exhibiting one class in the whole stable, and the red polls. We have some red Ayrshires and Herefords; but they must all be registered and eligible. In the sheep we have four different registers—the plainest, which are white, the black type, the improved black type, and the National Delaine Merinos. But sheep exhibited there must be registered, and the swine the same way—Chester Whites and Berkshires, the Poland China, and the small Yorkshire; and we have some of the Jersey Reds there, but very seldom. We now do not offer any premiums for grade stock. The mares and geldings are still offered premiums. That is the way we have been going up from the grades.

N. SEANOR of Armstrong. I do not agree with the gentlemen who have been on the floor advocating premiums only to registered stock. It may apply at some fairs, but not at the fairs held by our association. At our fairs it would not do at all, because we have not the kind of stock spoken of to hold successful fairs with. But we advertise to give the largest premiums to thoroughbreds of all kinds. Then we give premiums to graded stock, say a premium to that grade which is three-fourths blooded. That is the way we do at our fair, and that is the only way we can do now in our county. If we dispense with all the grades, we cannot hold a fair. I do not think it would be advisable to insist that our societies should only give premiums on thoroughbreds or registered stock.

J. S. MANLEY. I move that we answer that question by saying, encouraging farmers to enter more and more into thoroughbred stock.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Riddle, and agreed to.

The following discussions took place at the first meeting of the delegates from county agricultural societies, before the permanent organization was decided upon, and are here re-published on account of their general interest—SECRETARY.

How should the judges to award premiums be selected?

E. ROGERS of Chester. We have about six hundred and fifty stockholders. The gentlemen composing the board meet at the office, and the names of directors are called out, for instance, for short-horned cattle. A gentleman will name such a man, and then the question is asked: "Will he be an exhibitor?" If not, he is eligible. We take the whole number out of the stockholders, and do not generally go abroad; sometimes we go out in the neighborhood. I really cannot see how that plan can be improved upon. They are selected by the whole board of twenty-two gentlemen. Very frequently it takes us all day to select the judges. We do it carefully.

R. STILES of Bradford. We have no stockholders; we have life members. There is no income. We meet; we say, "Mr. Jones is a Shorthorn man, Mr. Smith is a Shorthorn man. Will they make good judges? Will they be exhibitors?" Some one informs us that Mr. Jones will be an exhibitor, then we will name somebody else who is a Shorthorn man. I am now speaking of the directors. We get good men in the different departments.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. If there can be any plan about it, I think the one we have adopted in Chester county is the best one for driving all the judges away, and having them absent themselves from the meeting. We certainly appoint those entirely competent to judge the different classes of exhibits assigned to them. But the great misfortune is, as I stated. If we can adopt some plan by which we can induce the judges to attend it will be a great advantage. In the first place we should make it interesting to the judges and provide accommodations for them. Even then we will not get them all to attend. The plan adopted by the state society, which I represent, is to have a chairman of the committee who is a member of the executive committee; the chairman of every committee is a member of the executive committee. By such a plan a great deal is accomplished, because the particular member of the executive committee will be more interested and more likely to select the best men for the occasion. I have been at agricultural fairs, and I have been on the committees where they have appointed the same men all through, in the swine department, as well as in the photograph and fine arts. It is not likely that farmers, who may be well acquainted with the qualities of swine, are also at the same time familiar with the fine arts. I know that to-day there is a great deal of injustice done to exhibitors by such a course. It should be the object of the agricultural society to please all the exhibitors as far as possible.

W. S. ROLAND of York. A good many years ago we discovered that it was a very difficult matter to obtain many of our very best citizens as judges at our fairs. They would not act, because they said they did not wish to stand the abuse which was constantly heaped upon them

for doing their duty. We discovered that they were interfered with by the exhibitors to such an extent that we found it necessary to think about changing our plan of having our exhibits judged. We went to work and invited judges outside of the county, from different parts of the state, to come to our fair to judge our machinery, the live stock, and so on, leaving the ladies' work among the ladies themselves, who selected their own judges. We do not appear to have the same difficulty, though we have a great deal of trouble sometimes, but during the last five, or six, or seven years we have found it to work admirably. I think we have given full satisfaction to all exhibitors, because they believe now and say the articles are fairly judged, and are judged according to the merits, not according to individual interests or friendships. We select from twelve to twenty judges, and we divide them into classes. When they come before us we ask them to report at certain times. We pay for their accommodation, their board, and their expenses, which are trifling. It costs somewhere in the neighborhood of one hundred dollars a year, and I think we are well compensated; and we receive the full return for our outlay, for we have had no difficulty in getting judges, and besides the judges have gone away from our fair ground satisfied. There has been no bickering, and no complaining, and no fault finding. We know the exhibitors pretty well; we know their feelings, their views, and their sentiments, and I think the exhibitors are entirely satisfied as well as the board of managers.

T. J. EDGE. What time does it take?

W. S. ROLAND. Some of the judges get through with their work in one day.

EVANS ROGERS of Chester. We usually have thirty judges. We experience the same trouble with the judges, for our rules are very stringent, and I make myself exceedingly unpopular in enforcing them. But it is very wholesome. The judge stands between the exhibitors, and if any person by a nod or a word asks for partiality, the effect of it is that instead of favors being shown, they not only lose their premiums but are debarred the privilege of exhibition. We have enforced that rule, and it has had a very good effect. We have had more trouble when we take our own people as judges. Our trouble has been chiefly among the ladies. The only way is to have stringent rules, and not to be afraid of the exhibitors or anybody else—give them to understand that such are our rules, and if they disobey those rules we will hold them accountable.

Dr. ROLAND. What do you do with your officers if they transgress?

Mr. ROGERS. Censure them. They are more anxious to get premiums than anybody else.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. I know something of the York county exhibition. I know that I have never been at an exhibition that was better attended for a county fair. I have heard people of Chester county say they never saw a better exhibition than that in York county. I happen to know something of the York County Agricultural Society, and the plans followed by that association. The manner of treating the judges meets my entire approbation, because we have found more trouble in that direction than any other. We cannot afford to displease exhibitors. Exhibitors, as well as everybody else, come to the fair for a gala day. The farmers come to look at the implements, at the representation of the arts and sciences, and everything which is calculated to promote their interests. If we can adopt a plan by which we can please everybody, we make our agricultural society a success. Such a

society is not established for the purpose of making money, only that they should be self-sustaining. When an exhibitor enters for a premium, if he has something better than anybody else, let him have the award. I do not care what his intention may be, whether his object is to make the fair a success, or whether he comes for dollars and cents. If he has something superior to anything else, he should have the premium, and we should let him have every opportunity to take it by employing judges who will not be biased in any way. That is the great difficulty we have labored under in Chester county, because I know that committees have not made the proper awards in cases where exhibitors have paid hundreds of dollars expenses to bring their wares, paying all their own expenses. I think there ought to be proper persons selected for the committees.

W. H. H. SIEG of Dauphin. We have furnished our judges with the premium list, and sent them out, which meets with considerable opposition. It was stated by exhibitors that the awards had been fixed beforehand. Our thirteen directors, scattered through each township, are furnished with two complimentary tickets, and they are required to furnish two competent judges. We have no trouble in getting judges who are satisfactory. No one is allowed to interfere with the judges in any way. Last year we had some little difficulty with horses. Everybody has the best horse. We have many fine horses—carriage and roadsters—and every one believes his the best.

Dr. ROLAND. There is one matter I want to call attention to in regard to the judges: When they are from abroad nobody knows them, and they do more work in one hour than a home judge does in a week.

J. A. WILT. Do you pay your judges?

Dr. ROLAND. We have been in the habit of giving them a lunch. The names of the judges are not published. The public generally know nothing as to who they are. The secretary sends out a number of postal-cards, notifying the judges what class they are placed on. The judge receives a complimentary ticket by reason of his appointment, and comes into the fair free, and he generally comes.

The following, offered by Mr. Rogers, was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the judgement of this convention that the judges shall be selected outside of the exhibitors and stockholders or members of the society when, in their judgment, competent judges cannot be secured among the stockholders.

Should side-shows be encouraged?

H. C. SNOWDEN of Delaware. In the first exhibition we gave, in 1878 we permitted side-shows, but since that time we have had none at all, and we find there is a great improvement in our exhibition. We do not need so many policemen; there is an absence of pickpockets and thieves, which we had in great numbers the first year. We were then a little verdant, and had a great deal of trouble on the ground. The pick pockets came from Philadelphia, and were a constant trouble during that fair. Our society is the nearest to Philadelphia, being only fifteen miles distant. We do not now permit any one to bring a side-show of any description, if we know it. We have requests every season for this privilege, but in every case they are refused, and we

make more money by not having them. We advertise in our hand-bills that no side-shows are permitted on or near the ground.

As to horse-racing—if that may be called a side-show—we have that in a moderate way. We do not offer very liberal premiums—the highest is seventy-five dollars; and we have scrub-races, in which the people of the county take part. This brings the people there to see the county horses. The aggregate premiums have not exceeded two hundred and seventy-five or three hundred dollars. We have undertaken to give amusements under the direction of the society, such as foot-races, in which the people who come to the ground will participate. Last year we introduced the Scottish games, the high leap, etc., wheelbarrow races, and small premiums are offered. The people must have amusements, or we cannot get them there. A great many come to see the machinery, but a great class, particularly the young people, are constantly demanding amusements. So far as side-shows are concerned, if they are properly managed, under the direction of the society, they are all right; but these other side-shows, such as introduce gambling, shooting at birds, exhibiting fat women, and such things, although there is nothing immoral in them, they bring with them a lot of pick-pockets and gamblers, who follow in their wake; you can see them coming into our gates. Last season we had four of Mayor King's reserve officers, and found these men in blue uniforms very effective in preserving order.

T. J. EDGE. There is a bill before the Legislature which will assist us, by giving our police the same power as the police in the cities.

H. C. SNOWDEN. I think it is the uniform of the police which has an effect. Our police cannot have any authority because the people are acquainted with them, and accustomed to seeing them about the neighborhood every day. Premiums are generally medals, and we have given a large number of them. Some of the exhibitors prefer medals, and I think that is the case with the better class of people. In the fairs in New York State the medal is the chief feature.

A MEMBER. What amount do you give outside of horses?

Mr. SNOWDEN. Last year, twelve hundred dollars. The horse premiums do not generally amount to more than about twenty per cent.

T. J. EDGE. Can you tell us something about drinking saloons?

Mr. SNOWDEN. We do not allow any drinking, except temperance drinks, such as mineral water and sarsaparilla, which are sold at the booths. We are located near a temperance town, and, consequently, the people who want anything stronger carry it around with them. We can say that our fair has progressed very satisfactorily. Last year we had twenty-four hundred entries, which was three times the number we had first year, and our premiums have increased considerably. I think abolishing the side-shows had a great deal to do with our success.

J. A. WILT of Bradford. It seems we have a very moral people in our section of this state, after hearing some of you gentlemen speak. We have managed the Bradford County Agricultural Society without horse-racing, without side-shows, or intoxicating drinks of any kind, and we have no disturbances whatever. The majority of the people of our county approve of course, judging from the manner in which they patronize us. At one time they did have horse races, and the tendency was to make too much of them, for, instead of their being a side-show, they were the main show. That feature was dispensed with, and from that day we began to be successful, and are successful now. If anybody wants to go on the track he can do it. We have a good half-mile track,

and they can speed their horses to their hearts' content, but we have nothing in the shape of racing. We allow no side-shows, and no intoxicating drinks of any description.

J. W. MATHER. In Tioga county we have trials of speed at our fairs, and sometimes three races in a day. We do not give very large premiums; but our people want horse-racing. I know last year one race did not fill according to our calculation, and there were a hundred men came to me and said, "We must fill that race;" "We must have it;" "I will put in one horse to fill that race." Then they supplied the requisites, and had the race. We have side-shows at our fairs. If a man comes there with a flying-horse, and wants to pay us ten dollars for the privilege of using the grounds, all right. If a man comes there with a machine to strike with a maul, and pays us five dollars, he can set it up. If a man wants to bring to our grounds a five-legged horse, to exhibit the same, and wants to pay twenty-five dollars, he comes in. We allow nothing to be sold on our grounds.

T. J. EDGE. Except the people who go into your side-show. (Laughter.)

J. W. MATHER. If they want to go into the side-show, we do not care; if they want to pay ten cents to see the bear preform, that is their own business. I never attended one of those things in my life. If there are hundreds of people that do, they pay their money for it. But we allow no man to sell whips, or Yankee notions, or anything of that kind. I do not see why it is necessary to prohibit a man who runs a side-show respectably. Of course he is not permitted on the ground unless he pays for his privilege, and then we are making that much money out of him, and he makes that much more, too, out of those who attend the fair, and attend his exhibition.

F. B. HARTMAN of Columbia. I would like to know what the views of this convention are in regard to side-shows. If you allow a man to come on the grounds and sell whips, do you call that a side-show? Or if man sells common or small beer? We allow the selling of candies, nuts, lemonade, ice cream, or whatever they have to sell, and we also have horse-racing at our fairs. On account of the different side-shows and sales stands, our receipts were over five hundred dollars, I believe, in one year. We have a building, with tables, for an eating-house, on our ground. We rent that to the churches. The different congregations take their turns. They pay seventy-five dollars a year for that place.

They generally realize two or three hundred dollars. It is quite a source of revenue to them. I do not see the necessity of excluding anything of a moral character, or those, for instance, who sell whips, or things of that kind, when they pay us five dollars for the privilege.

D. H. BRANSON of Ohester. I do not see any objection to the side-show when it is well applied, but I do not understand why visitors should be required to pay ten or fifteen cents extra to see the fat woman, when the other fat women on the ground can be seen without any charge. I am sorry to inform you that I am connected with a society that does not encourage side-shows.

A MEMBER. Don't be too certain about that.

D. H. BRANSON. I refer to those, of course, that interfere with the exhibition. I have seen side-shows located the length of the line of the agricultural implement display, the owners making a great noise selling their soaps and wares, annoying the people very much. I think I can hardly agree with the societies that have prohibited it altogether, yet I would not agree that it should be the main feature of the exhibition.

In Philadelphia some of these people have exhibitions right along side of the churches, and the people there make no complaint whatever, yet some such persons will attend the fairs, and declare that it is taking money away from the people. I believe much depends upon the management of them in connection with our exhibitions, and that, when properly managed, they can be made a good feature.

J. M. GRAHAM of Juniata. There is a duty devolving upon this body, in reference to this question, that, I think, ought to be remembered. It is not necessary for us to delineate, or pick out, or determine exactly what a side-show is, because we could not agree upon that.

The ordinary meaning of side-show is something introduced upon the ground to attract the attention, and very generally there is a little bit of "shenanagin" going on in connection with them.

A MEMBER. That's it.

Dr. GRAHAM. Our boys come to town, and, not accustomed to these things, they are induced to visit them, and it is not long before they are led into one of these shows, where there is a little gambling quietly going on. They imbibe the spirit, and it is hard to overcome it. I think these affairs have aided largely in the habit of gambling to-day. The tendency of these things is to immorality, and when a vote is taken by this body, I hope it will be against side-shows.

A resolution was offered upon the subject, and agreed to, as follows:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that all side-shows and games of chance should be discouraged by agricultural societies at their annual exhibitions."

What system of entries is most desirable, and should the exhibitor's name appear on the entry card?

W. S. ROLAND of York. I suggest that we recommend to agricultural societies, when receiving articles on exhibition, that they give on the card only the number and class, omitting the name of the exhibitor.

A MEMBER. I move that the resolution of Dr. Roland be substituted for No. 3 on the programme. The motion being seconded, it was agreed to.

W. H. H. SEIG. Our books go immediately into the hands of the committee. We have but one book in which we enter our entries.

F. B. HARTMAN of Columbia. There is published a book which covers the bill exactly. It is perforated down through the center, and you cut it in two, and hand one part to the committee or the judge, and that corresponds exactly with the one on the book, and they award premiums by numbers. When they bring that book back the secretary holds the name and the committee that awards the premiums has no name at all, but merely the numbers. William T. Allen, of Greenville, Mercer county, has those books.

L. P. HECKER of Lehigh. We have a different system, which requires a good deal of work. In the first place we enter the number of the exhibitor and the name of the article in the secretary's book. From that original entry the articles are posted in the committee books under the respective titles. The numbers of the exhibitors and the articles in that class are handed to the committee. It requires a great deal of labor to prepare the committee books, but, when completed, only the articles and the numbers of the exhibitors appear to the judges.

W. S. ROLAND. I belong to a society which has simplified that plan very much. We have a book for each class. It is headed "A, No. 1," giving the article, and giving the name on the stub. That is followed out on the same line by class "A, No. 2," etc.

THOS. J. EDGE of Chester. Why give the committee entry books at all? We give them a schedule and paper. They award the premium. The secretary can ascertain in a minute what the exhibit is by the number, and the committee do not know anything at all about it. In the entry book a record is kept, and if one exhibitor has a hundred articles, say John Smith, we give him one number, say 421, and John Jones, 422, in the same department. We do not give the entry books to the judges, but the secretary keeps them. The awardings of the premiums are made by the numbers.

R. M. RANGE of Crawford. We use the class-book spoken of by the gentleman with great success, and we have used them for four years. In regard to the allusion to the judges not knowing who the exhibitors are, it is a very difficult thing for them to know, because the names remain in the secretary's office.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. We use the entry books gotten up by Mr. Allen, of Mercer, in Tioga county. Before we used them it took myself and assistant until four o'clock to hunt up the committee books. Now, tags are attached to the articles, and the number and the name of the article is in the first column on this committee book. Then there is a perforated hole through the book, and the name of the article corresponds with the number. Every class has a book by itself. Class one, in our catalogue, is horses; class two, for ordinary work; three, draught horses, and either one of those classes takes a book. It has been suggested that it was necessary to have a book. There are a great many articles on exhibition, and with a committee composed of farmers, when it is four o'clock in the afternoon they say, "I must go home; I am in a hurry." They do not want to look around an hour or two for the articles. If they have their book before them with the articles in it, they find the articles with the numbers attached, check them off, and know they are through. They do not have to come back until after the second day. Then they can enter them without any mistake. The two pieces are put together, the number corresponding, and there is no error in making up the premium list. Many times there are entries of articles which never reach the fair ground. I am in favor of using the book, but not having the name of the article. I suggest that each label have the name of the article, the variety, and a description, so that a visitor can tell, by looking at a label, what it is without asking questions. For two years we have found that plan very advantageous.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. The state society manages the entries in this manner: Each class has a book. The committee takes the book, with the exhibitor's name, and it is classed, and numbered. In the back of the book is printed the premium allowed in that class. All the premiums are in strict conformity with the schedule printed on the back of the book. When the committee go to the stock, they expect John Jones to show his cattle, and John Smith to bring out his fine stallion. They want to know the breed of the animal, and in what consists its merit, and the exhibitor himself shows the animal, so that the committee know who the exhibitor is. It makes no difference if the name is withheld; it is simply a matter of form, for it will be brought out before the committee. This is not only the case with animals, but with articles and implements on exhibition. In order to get at the

merits, it is necessary for the exhibitor to point them out. The agent of an implement will tell what the merits are.

I recollect, at a recent exhibition of the Oxford society, there were fifty wagons, and out of the fifty represented at that agricultural fair forty-nine were sold. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company had to return free only one. I will venture to say that if those agents had not been there to show the farmers their wares, the people would not have known of them. So it is with the men who put the machinery in motion. The farmers would not know where to get the best articles if it were not for their presence at the agricultural fair, where they have the opportunity of seeing and comparing them, and hearing the agents describe their powers and merits.

A MEMBER. Were they competing for a premium?

D. H. BRANSON. No, sir. The Oxford society does not offer any premiums for their implements. The exhibitors have the opportunity of advertising their goods, and if they have the best, and we are able to discern it, we tell them so, but we do not give them any premium. Every implement is there in the name of the exhibitor. At the state fair all the articles are named, and every one that places an article on exhibition is named, so that there is no guessing at it. The committee might make a grave mistake in looking at a number. If we put the names on everything, and let all come in on the same basis, there can be no grievous wrong committed.

The discussion having closed, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to agricultural societies that only the article, number, and class be mentioned on the entry card, omitting the name of the exhibitor, which may be added after the award of the premium."

How can agricultural exhibitions be made most attractive and profitable?

C. W. ROBERTS of Chester. Mr. Chairman, there are many points in this question, but there is one that I will refer to. If you want to get a turn out of stock, you must treat those who bring stock to your exhibition with courtesy and justice. In some cases stock is not classed as it should be to bring the right results. Sheep, hogs, and so on, each distinct breed, should be distinctly set aside and judged, making your premiums according to the kinds of animals presented. It is very advantageous to us to improve our stock as much as possible. Gentlemen who spend time and money to present their products to an exhibition should be encouraged. In every department—for instance the vegetable and fruit departments—the exhibition should be made attractive. Even when a sample of potatoes is brought to your attention, a history of it should be given. So with apples, an individual history of the apple should be furnished, so that while it appears pleasant to look upon, it is a product of interest to the community.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. Like any other business, an agricultural society offers premiums, advertises, and pays a certain amount for the best articles produced, for one object—the improvement of the stock, and to ascertain the best mode of cultivation. It is also an object of a society to extend to all the persons in the society, in the same or other counties, the best facilities for carrying on their business. They take advantage of an exhibition of this character to advertise their wares,

whoever has goods to sell. A man who has a wagon for sale, or machinery, takes advantage of that opportunity to exhibit for customers.

In our county we have two societies. The society which I represent confines its exhibits to the county. There is nothing accepted outside of Tioga county. At the exhibition at Mansfield everything is taken from any county in the state. Our society does not pay for bringing exhibits to the fair. The people of Mansfield pay exhibitors. They say, we do not care where the article comes from, only so we have a show and please the people of the county.

We want them to get their money's worth; we want them to see enough to pay them for coming. The ground is well located on the Tioga railroad. It is about twelve miles from the town, where there are several thousand people, and in the vicinity there is a mining district. They entertain those people. They have no horse-racing or trotting, but they have base ball matches and such amusements. They hire men to run the machinery during the fair; they furnish the material and pay for the time, to make the exhibition instructive. We have never done that. We have only taken what the people brought, and disposed of it to the best advantage, putting it in the best shape possible. We have never hired parties to come with exhibits. I know of people who have been induced to take stock in a fair by the management guaranteeing the first premium for bringing such and such an article, and paying their expenses beside. I do not think that is just. If it gets out, and is publicly known, it produces dissatisfaction. People say "What is the use of my taking stock if Jones is sure of the first premium?" What is the use of my exhibiting, if the premium is guaranteed beforehand to somebody else?"

Like any other business, an agricultural society should conduct its affairs with strict honesty, doing as well by one as another, and letting merit determine who shall deserve the first premium.

There is another subject with which I have found some difficulty. Almost all societies have only one class of grade cattle, and only one premium. I would like some of the representatives of the different societies present to express their views on the question, whether it is better to have the grade cattle come under one head, that is to say, one premium for grade cows, one premium for grade yearlings, for two years old, and so on, or is it better to have grade stock divided? In my opinion, it is not fair for a grade Alderney to compete with grade a Durham, nor either one of those grades with a Guernsey. We have been forced to separate the grades—to offer different premiums for the different grades—and it amounts to a large sum in premiums. A great many societies do not follow that plan. Which is the better way?

Then another question I would suggest: What is best for a society to do in the way of committees? Should a committee be known to the exhibitors?

In the general discussion of what is to the best interests of a fair it seems pertinent, but, perhaps, it had better be discussed separately.

W. H. H. SIEG of Dauphin. I am somewhat young in agricultural matters, but have had a little experience in business. It strikes me, the first principle of success with fairs is that they should be conducted on business principles. We should strive at a fair to obtain the money, for without money we cannot pay premiums. Now, the question is, what is best to do, or what should we do, to secure the attendance of the people? I was very much struck with the subject mentioned this

afternoon by the gentleman from the Reading society (Mr. Fox), when he referred to the fact of the monthly meetings held, at which the annual members were permitted to take part.

Societies should commence in a business way. There should be local societies formed—say one in every township, or two or three adjoining townships—where the young could meet and compare their views on different points of agricultural interest, raising stock, fruit, and any other matters which might come before them. In that way we could get the young people interested and older farmers more interested. We have more exhibitors at our fair now than ever, and when we have plenty of exhibitors more people are interested; and the more the people are interested the more visitors there will be to the fair, and the greater sum of money we will be able to pay in premiums, and in offering inducement for the people to come. We want more education among the younger farmers. There are many speakers in the country, and we have the traveling officers of the grange who visits the various counties and delivers lectures. His services could be obtained at a very low price, in addition to what he is paid annually, and in this manner subjects of agricultural interest can be brought to the attention of the young. I believe in the encouragement of the youth of our country. We do not see as many young people coming to the fair as we would like. They prefer going to the towns and cities to see a minstrel troupe in an opera house to going to a fair and seeing the exhibition there. I do not know how it is in other counties, but that is the result of my observation in our own.

MR. LEONARD. Mr. President, our society is about five or six years old. We began with a free fair, and organized a farmers' club, which was chartered. We had meetings held in the opera house at Troy, where we have discussions. The discussions are published generally. Thus we have gradually raised an interest in our fair, and by discussion we have worked up in our community an interest. This interest is to take the premium for, not the amount of money, but the name of having the best stock. Ever since our fair has been organized we have become leaders in Shorthorns. Probably we have more in our vicinity than any other district of the same area in the state. We also lead in sheep and swine. That is the result of our efforts, and that is the way we propose it shall do us good. Our society has leased from sixteen to twenty acres of ground, at considerable expense, and it has been nearly liquidated by the sale of large numbers of tickets. Our interest is increasing, and there is a general desire to excel in raising the best crops and best stock.

R. STILES of Bradford. Mr. President, allow me to speak in regard to the subject referred to by my colleague. I see by the drift of this discussion that it is intended to be promiscuous talk—it is not confined to anything except the good of the order. We have been engaged in this movement about seven years. In 1875 we held the first free fair, and we have held them from that time. Last season we succeeded in securing the reputation of a better show of cattle at our fair than they had at the New York State fair, in Elmira, twenty-five miles from us. Our exhibit of stock was said to be better than their exhibit. I will say that our judges had some fault found with them for not giving awards on merit. I will state one instance which occurred last fall. There was a man exhibiting a self-binder on the fair ground, who obtained the first premium. Of course every body knew that he was not entitled to it on the merits of the binder, but he got the premium be-

cause he had taken the pains to bring some there. So it was with a man who had a saw-mill there.

THOMAS J. EDGE. A question has been submitted for discussion by Mr. Graham, viz: Would it not be greatly to the advantage and profit of the agricultural interests of our country to offer large premiums, say not less than fifty dollars, or even one hundred dollars, to the person who would produce the largest yield of grain, say on not less than ten acres of ground.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. Mr. President, that is an effort so nearly in the right direction that you will pardon me for getting up, as I had intended to remain still this evening. There is something we want to know right in that connection of interest to farmers and farmers' sons. A few years ago I was connected with an agricultural society which was run largely in the interests of the horse. It was believed, at that time, that the horse was the only salvation of an agricultural society, and I felt any effort I might make to try to convince my fellow-members of the board that it was not the entire consideration, would be in vain. I introduced a premium for the best crop of corn grown in Chester county, and for that premium I suggested that a corn-sheller of the very best manufacture be presented to the one who was victorious in raising that crop of corn. I happened to be on the committee which examined the different crops of corn. On that occasion, I am happy to say, there was a premium awarded for a crop of corn that exceeded somewhat one hundred bushels to the acre. That arrangement was certainly in the right direction, and I would much rather see a premium of forty dollars awarded for the finest pair of cattle than three or four of five hundred dollars for the best horse. There are a variety of tastes to be considered in an agricultural exhibition, and it takes in the horse no more than other departments. You will believe with me that the most good is derived from the substantial, rather than making racing the grand feature of the exhibition. Possibly, I may be deviating from the question, but, I think, it bears upon the matter of the best means of conducting to the financial interests of our best exhibitions. In order to have an exhibition successful, and that will please everybody, we must not have a grand display of agricultural implements alone, because three-fourths or one-half of the people who attend will not see the agricultural implements, but will look at some other exhibits, while there is one portion who will see nothing but agricultural implements. When the tastes of all people are consulted they will go home and say: "We have had the best exhibition I ever witnessed." For each individual will be pleased.

In regard to the matter of confining exhibits to one county, I am not in favor of restricting the exhibits from any county in our State being brought to our fair, because we well know that the agricultural implements of to-day are not manufactured alone in Chester county, or Dauphin county, or Lebanon county, or any other one county, but are distributed throughout the state, and outside of Pennsylvania. I believe in the use of labor-saving machinery among our farmers. We want to invite them all to come and show us their goods, and they will gladly do it. I am in favor of every member of an agricultural society forming himself into a committee of the whole to promote the best interests of agriculture, and, when he acts in this manner, the result will be great, and will be appreciated by the people who attend the fairs. I do not want you to leave one person out. Every item of information will be advantageous to our interest. The gentleman who is taking

the notes to-night is doing great good. He is promulgating agricultural information, which will reach every corner of our state, and other states. I believe in using every means to advance the interests of agriculture, and I hope that very good results will follow this, our first, meeting.

W. C. PACKER of Northumberland. Mr. President, the question with us is, "How can exhibitions be made most attractive and profitable?" In the first place, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are two classes of people attending agricultural fairs. First are the exhibitors, and in this are many exhibitors who go into the business of attending fairs for the purpose of making money. That cannot be denied. Consequently, in order to gratify them, I think agricultural societies should offer premiums sufficiently large for these exhibitors to take a deep interest in what they prepare for exhibition, that they will bring to these fairs articles which are worthy of a premium. In the next place, it is necessary to make it attractive for these men. If the authorities are careful in the selection of committees who will do justice in the examination of the articles exhibited, the best results will follow. It is often the case that unworthy articles are awarded premiums, as well as articles that are worthy, and in that way great injury is done, not only to the exhibitor, but to the society. In such cases there will be dissatisfaction, and the exhibitors will not favor us a second or third time with their articles for exhibition. Poor exhibits should not be allowed premiums. The awarding committee should have such power and discretion in the awarding of premiums that articles not worthy should not be encouraged. But exhibitors should be fairly treated in this respect.

Then we have another class of visitors—those who attend fairs just to enjoy themselves. In Pennsylvania, and I suppose in other states, it has become the custom of people to visit a fair one day in the year. Some people probably make it a custom to visit three or four fairs in their immediate neighborhood, and many look upon it as an annual holiday. But they expect a large show. Otherwise they would not come. In the next place they will be directed to the fair grounds that are most pleasantly located, and in every respect most favorable for the enjoyment of visitors. In order to make a fair successful I think the officers and those who have charge of it, should make a special effort to have the grounds in a nice and attractive condition for visitors, not only from the immediate county, but for strangers from adjoining counties. Besides that, where societies offer premiums not only for the immediate county, but for exhibitors from adjoining counties and the state at large, the exhibitors from adjoining counties should be treated with the same justice as those from the county holding the fair. Discrimination often causes disappointment and dissatisfaction to arise, from the fact that exhibitors from adjoining counties, or the state at large, are not treated with the same justice as home exhibitors. If you want to make a fair attractive, and, at the same time profitable—which I submit it must be to be successful—all exhibitors, not only from the immediate county, but from adjoining counties, and the state at large, should be treated alike.

H. M. ENGLE of Lancaster. To what has been said in reference to making the exhibitions attractive and profitable, a great deal more might be added. It is certain that if you can make an exhibition attractive, it will be profitable in consequence, as a matter of course. A great deal has been suggested by one gentleman as depending on the location of the ground and the arrangement of the exhibits. The

exhibitors themselves have a great deal to do with making it attractive. A few years ago I visited several county fairs; I will not mention names, but I will refer to one especially. They had some very fine exhibits, particularly the fruits and vegetables. I thought I had never seen finer, but the grounds were not at all attractive, the buildings were somewhat dilapidated, and the exhibits were very badly arranged. Consequently it had no attractions for me, although the exhibits themselves seemed excellent. During the same season I was at another fair where, I think, the products were not so fine as those of the former, but they were so nicely arranged and adjusted on the fair grounds, and in the buildings, that they made a far better show than the other. There is a great deal in the arrangement. Take, for instance, the floral department and other matters which belong to ladies. Get the ladies to take charge and arrange them so they will be attractive. Fruit, also, can be made much more attractive by being tastefully arranged. Fruit and flowers should be in nice, clean vessels, with the tables and everything around them neat and tidy. Some have more taste than others. For instance, if you present a bunch of flowers to one lady, she will make a very nice bouquet out of them; while if you give the same flowers to another lady it will be a very different bouquet, not near so beautiful. So with everything connected with an exhibition; the ground should be well located, the buildings neat and tidy, the machinery properly arranged, a certain class of machinery at one point, and another class at a different point. They should be arranged in classes. I am satisfied that proper arrangement and classification have a great deal to do with making a fair attractive. If it is made attractive, the report of the first day will bring quite a number of visitors the next day.

F. B. HARTMAN of Columbia. Mr. President, I think the best time to begin to make a fair attractive is in the location and selection of the ground. I think we should select also the best men in the county to conduct it; not drones, but men who will work—men who will take an interest in an agricultural society. Then, in order to get exhibitors to bring articles, we must pay good premiums. The higher premiums will pay. The more premiums you pay, the more money you will get to pay premiums with. I speak from experience. I have been secretary of our society (the Columbia county) for about fifteen years. I remember when we paid but three or four hundred dollars in premiums where we now pay from ten to fifteen hundred dollars. I remember the time when our buildings were dilapidated, the grass high, the ground rough, and the fences down. Now our buildings are whitewashed; the fences all stand straight; and, just before the fair, we have the ground mowed a second time so that it is as smooth and nice as the floor of this room. We have shade trees growing, which are very grateful. There was a time when whisky flowed at the fair almost like water. Then drunkenness ran riot, thieves were plentiful, and three-card-monte men and such characters were there. Then the better class of people shunned the fair. Now we have drawn the line, we have excluded all thieves, we allow no strong drink to be sold, and no three-card-monte men find an entrance. We have been offered as high as one hundred dollars a piece by some of these characters for the privilege of coming on the ground, but we say, "No." There is no drunkenness. From eight to ten thousand people are in attendance at one time, and the place is orderly and quiet. There are no thieves any more. I visited a fair last fall where I would not go again under any consideration. From nine o'clock until I left whisky and beer were flowing.

and the three-card-monte men were busy, but there was nothing to interest or instruct, and I am sure a few more will visit it next year. It depends very much how a fair is run, whether or not it is a success. In Columbia county the better class of people attend the fair.

W. S. ROLAND of York. I have been connected with agricultural fairs for a great many years, and it is a subject in which I am greatly interested, and I have taken an active part in them. To make fairs attractive it is very necessary, as has been remarked here, to select good men. Ease and facility in getting to the grounds, either from railroads, the towns, or from the various homes, are very considerable matters. When you have your ground pleasantly located, with shade trees, plenty of water, and other accommodations, including ready access, and the officers give every attention to visitors and exhibitors, certainly there the exhibition will prove attractive.

As has been suggested by the gentleman who last addressed you, there is a great deal in the selection of the officers. It is essential that to conduct an agricultural fair they should not only be competent and intelligent, but be willing to give their time and attention to the fair. They should agitate the subject, and advocate it, at all times, and keep it alive. They should hold out inducements to exhibitors to bring their articles and everything worthy of competition. Then everybody will be attracted there—customers to the agricultural departments as well as to the household exhibits. It is the only way they can be reached. With the society which I represent we had not at first the best locality. We started in this way: We got good, active, working men, who agitated the matter. We got our newspapers interested in it, and even the auctioneers in crying sales through the county told the people not to forget the county fair, and announced the time that it would be held. We paid one individual ten per cent. for selling tickets, and in that way sold several thousand tickets at one dollar a piece. When we held our first fair I do not think we had much of an exhibition, yet we had a surplus of between three and four thousand dollars, and placed it on a permanent basis, and it has been in existence ever since.

The secretary read the following resolution:

Resolved, That this convention thinks agricultural exhibitions can be made attractive and profitable by holding out inducements to exhibitors to produce and exhibit the different articles they represent, in such quality, and in such order and style, as to show in the best and most attractive manner possible; to induce or stimulate the exhibitors to that end, give them fair and ample premiums; also have the ground and buildings in the best condition possible, and elect live and enterprising officers. By such a course visitors would be pleased with the exhibition, be encouraged to attend, and the good reports carried forth by them would stimulate others to attend, thereby increasing the attendance, and, of course, making it profitable."

The resolution was seconded.

CYRUS T. FOX of Berks. I desire to say in reference to this matter of making exhibitions more attractive and profitable, that we must consider the fact that the exhibitor must be catered to, as well as the visitor. Now, in reference to the exhibitor, this resolution will go a great way toward increasing the attractiveness of the fair. What you want is to enlist the interest of as many people as possible of the county in the success of the fair, and in no way can you do that better than by offering premiums of sufficient amount for articles, so as to induce persons

to take an interest in the exhibition, and bring their different wares there. There should be special premiums for amateurs. The young farmers ought to be encouraged to take an interest in the exhibition. I have noticed in these gatherings mostly men beyond middle age, and our agricultural exhibitions are very largely in the hands of such men. There are many young men on the farm who ought to begin early to take an interest in the annual county exhibition, and they would thus be led to remain on the farm. If premiums were offered to amateurs, gardeners and farmers, youths and young men, for the production of certain crops, it would undoubtedly have a very beneficial effect. In the Berks County Agricultural Society there is now a premium of seventy-five dollars offered for the best acre of wheat produced in the county, which will be awarded at the proper time. Several years ago the society awarded four hundred dollars for the promotion of fruit growing in the county, and also paid one hundred dollars to encourage tobacco growing, and we expect every year to offer premiums for the encouragement of special interests. I say, make the exhibition attractive to the young men of the county. Look after the interests of the visitors; have the grounds and buildings in an attractive condition, and provide all special features possible. There are other attractions outside of those which are merely agricultural, that can increase the public interest. Horse-racing is not strictly of an agricultural nature, yet a fair without horse-racing would be like a circus without a clown. We all know that the race-course has a great deal to do with developing the speed of the horse in this country. Without having trials of speed there never would have been a "Maud S.," with a record of 2.10½, nor would there be to-day the great demand for Kentucky-bred stock, for which large prices are paid.

E. ROGERS of Chester. The gentleman from Columbia (Mr. Hartman) struck the key-note when he said that in beginning a society you must be careful to select the best men to run it, in order to insure success; in other words, you must have men who are not failures in their own business. You should select the men to manage your business who have not been failures in their own business. For, if a man cannot manage his own business he cannot manage yours or mine. In selecting members of your board you should have men of good judgment, and successful men. You should not select drones, but those who are capable. It has been my experience that about one-third or one-fourth have to do all the work, and take the responsibility. If you will make an exhibition attractive, you will make it profitable. How are you going to make it attractive? It is very important that every member of the board should do whatever work is allotted to him by the board. If he is on the cattle committee, he should see that the cattle stalls are well filled; if on the committee on swine, he should look to see that the stalls for pigs are well filled, and so with the sheep and every other department. There is another feature. The fair should be made attractive to mechanics, doctors, lawyers, and all classes of the community. We do not want only farmers, but business men of every description. We want them all represented, and we must not forget the wives and daughters. We want some amusement also. Everybody needs relaxation from business, and no class more than farmers. There should be amusements of all varieties.

Horse-racing or horse-trotting, in my judgment, is one of the important features. It affords entertainment and amusement. I am totally opposed to all side-shows, and to gambling and drinking on

the fair ground, and there should be order maintained. We can be fond of a little sport, or horse-racing and still be gentlemen. It is an exploded idea that a man who deals in horses, or is in favor of developing a horse, cannot at the same time be a gentleman. Is it not better to make two or three hundred dollars on a horse, then ten dollars on a pig? You hear of horses bringing twenty thousand dollars, but there is not a gentleman who decries horse-racing that would not be glad to get twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars for a horse.

D. H. BRANSON of Chester. Now that we have heard from the horse largely, it seems to me that our interests wander off in different directions. I will admit the horse brings to the exhibition a large attendance, and I will not dispense with the horse—I do not mean to do that. But to make an exhibition a success a horse should not be the predominating feature of that exhibition. The gentleman who last addressed you said that in order to insure success a society should select men who have been successful in their own business. Take the men who have been the officers of a society, and if they have been a success, I think you will find the county society with such men will be found a grand success financially, also. I know that such a result is won largely with the horse, and the gentleman himself can tell how the exhibition in Chester county compares financially with others. I happened to be a native-born citizen of Chester county, and I think you will agree with me in saying the horse at the exhibitions of Chester county has never been a source of revenue. I was connected with the board of the Chester County Agricultural Society, and I did what I possibly could to keep the horse from being a prominent feature of that society, but I was very much opposed. There are those who largely make it a business, and portion of them come from distant cities, to take away the money from our agricultural societies, and what do they care for us afterwards? They get our money and put it in their pockets, and go to some other county. We want men who will stand by the agricultural societies in the future, and not the men who come and carry away the laurels, and the money, of Chester county. I like to see a good traveling horse, and we ought to encourage them in our county. I am glad to say that we have a horse exhibition in the spring of the year, and that we have an exhibition of agricultural implements, and that there was as grand a display last year as we have had at the State Pennsylvania Agricultural Society. The State Agricultural Society does not make a specialty of the horse. I never saw a horse trot there faster than three and a half or four minutes. You scarcely see a horse appear except in the cavalcade. If any gentleman connected with an agricultural society can stand up and tell me of a fair having the horse as the main attraction, that stands financially any better than one not conducted in that direction, I will admit that I am mistaken. I know of instances where the grand stand has cost much more than usual, but when the receipts came in it never told in favor of the horse.

The resolution was then adopted as follows:

Resolved, That this convention thinks that agricultural exhibitions can be made attractive and profitable by holding out inducements to exhibitors to produce and exhibit the different articles they represent in such quality, and in such order and style as to show in the best and most attractive manner possible; to induce or stimulate the exhibitors to that end, give them fair and ample premiums; also have the grounds and buildings in the best condition possible, and elect live and enterprising officers. By such a course visitors would be pleased with the

exhibition, be encouraged to attend, and the good report carried forth by them would stimulate others to attend, thereby increasing the attendance and, of course, making it profitable.

What system or plan of issuing admission tickets is best adapted to agricultural exhibitions?

L. P. HECKER of Lehigh. This question has given us more trouble and difficulty than any other question that we have had to face. The Lehigh County Agricultural Society has been organized for thirty years, and from the start we determined on the issuing of dollar tickets for a family, one such ticket admitting the whole family. The plan did well for ten years or more, but after that there was a great deal of fraud committed by those to whom the tickets were sold. Up to last year we did not attempt to change our plan, although we knew that the society was losing money. We were afraid of any innovation on a plan that had been used for twenty-five years. Last year we determined to make a change. We issued coupon tickets—that is, issued tickets admitting the heads of a family, and members thereof under twenty-one years of age eight times each. Each time that a member of the family entered the exhibition one of the coupons was taken up. Of course there were objections, for the reason that all the members of the family would have to be together at the same time. We overcame that by allowing the members to use the detached coupons indorsed. Some indorsed the coupons and sold them. Of course we were not able to tell whether they were genuine or not, but the imposition did not amount to such a large loss as before. We are not satisfied with this plan, and I would be very glad to hear suggestions from the delegates by which some of the difficulties can be overcome. I hope there are members here who can tell us how to do better. Our society is a stock company. We have about seven hundred and fifty life members. We have a separate entrance gate for the life members. With seven hundred and fifty life membership tickets, we will have some who will take advantage if they can. We have a list of the members at the gate.

C. R. LANTZ of Lebanon. The question before us is, "What system or plan of issuing admission tickets is best adapted to agricultural exhibitions?" I believe there is only one true system of admission to any organization, and that is to "pay as you go." Nowhere are tickets issued without the organization being deceived, except where the tickets are taken up at the gate. We have a stock association. We give every member a ticket with his name on the back, and that admits him. We don't sell any tickets except twenty-five-cent, and ten-cent tickets for children, and then we are not humbugged by having a man bring his neighbor in on his ticket. I believe there are people belonging to agricultural societies that will abuse their privilege. If a member of an agricultural society does not go in and make a society a success, then he hasn't the interests of the society at heart. We are not discussing what the price of admission should be, but if twenty-five cents is too low make it higher. My plan would be to issue one class of tickets, a different color for each day, and people then will know that they have to pay to get in. With all of us our aim is to have the exhibition a success. If the people bring their products it will be a success in one way. The best system is that which will make it a success financially—

it is the dollars and cents that you must have in view, and men who have the success of the society at heart will not hesitate to pay one dollar to come in with their families. The only system is to have one class of tickets, and then to have everybody pay alike, with the exception of the stockholders. It is not right that they should pay, for they have money invested. The system or plan then that would be best adapted is to have one class of tickets—single admission tickets—and no other. Twenty years ago we used to issue tickets—as the gentleman from Lehigh (Mr. Hecker) says, “family tickets”—and there were some enormous families on fair day. On one dollar we admitted eight or ten people, and the consequence was that when the time came to pay the premiums we were short of funds. Societies ought to take this into consideration, for it is well to take care of ourselves in a financial sense. The exhibition is held for people who take pride in their products, the money must come from somewhere to pay them, and it should be the interest of every one willingly to pay to see the exhibition. It is the only way—though it is open for criticism—that can be adopted.

F. W. ELLSWORTH of Crawford. I represent the Crawford County Agricultural Society. They have sent this circular with their answers [paper submitted]. It is a society that has been in successful operation since 1851, and it has the reputation of being one of the most successful societies in the state. In answer to this question, No. 1, they issue daily tickets. It is not a stock company.

W. H. H. SIEG of Dauphin. Probably the Dauphin county society is the youngest in the state. We have held three exhibitions. We have the simplest tickets in existence. In the first place, we get “rail-road tickets” printed at one dollar a thousand, and have them numbered from one to twenty thousand. We sell them at twenty-five cents apiece, and when received at the gate we tear them up. The secretary is charged with all the tickets and every ticket is numbered. Then we have what we call the “grand stand” ticket for fifteen cents, and there the same plan is pursued. We have a stock company, and the stockholder's ticket admits the stockholder and his carriage every day. Two coupons are attached to his ticket. He gets one ticket and the coupons, which give him two admissions besides himself, for one day only. The other ticket is good during the fair. It is to be taken up if presented by anybody else. It will let in only the carriage, if not in the possession of the owner. These two single coupons are all he gets, except the ticket itself. Then we have a coupon ticket, with five admissions, sold for one dollar, which must be detached by the gate-keeper. They must be taken off at the gate. For carriages and horses we sell a ticket for twenty-five cents. Then we have an exhibitor's ticket. All our entries are free, except horses. The exhibitor's ticket is good for the entire fair. If he wants to drive in every day, we charge him another dollar. We don't make it compulsory. The majority of our exhibitors will buy such a ticket. Then we issue a judge's ticket, which we make good on the day that the stock or articles are to be examined. Then we issue an attendant's pass; that we have revived every day. There is no transfer. The secretary knows how many attendants there are, and these passes admit once a day. That is our entire ticket system. We have no trouble at all, and have no complaints.

J. ANDREW WILT of Bradford. The Bradford county society has only these few tickets [exhibiting]. We are a mutual organization

of life members. There can be no profits divided. We do not run our organization for profit. A life member's ticket admits the life member, his wife and children. A list of the members is kept at the gate. We have only two kinds of tickets. The exhibitor's ticket consists of two tickets. These cost him one dollar. He pays his dollar, and goes in and out as often as he pleases, whether he exhibits anything or not. The gate-tender takes up one ticket, and the exhibitor keeps the other. As often as the exhibitor goes in he shows his yellow ticket, and gets a duplicate ticket to be taken up. Twenty-five cents is the price for general admission. The only trouble that we have ever found is sometimes with the life memberships. We have no such thing as a family ticket.

THOMAS J. EDGE of Chester. After some experience I have come to the conclusion that the difficulty with tickets can be overcome by adopting the simple rule of exacting one ticket from every person who passes into the fair ground. At the same time, I would issue season tickets in coupon form to stockholders, and allow a certain percentage on the value of the stock. I would charge but one price of admission, whether it is for a horse or a person, and allow whatever is right to exhibitors. Let every one, whether he be president of the society, or whoever he may be, deposit a ticket in passing through the gates, and the difficulty will be overcome. Our society is imposed upon by allowing the stockholders a ticket, or, if we are not imposed upon, we give too much for the money. It would be better for to pay the stockholder twenty per cent., or to sell him season tickets, or four or five tickets for one dollar, and have every one pay who goes through the gate, and the gate-keeper only to let those pass who deliver up a ticket.

W. S. ROLAND of York. We have given our experiences. Now, if some member will make a motion as to what kind of a system we should have, we will know how we stand.

REUBEN STILES of Bradford. Some localities pay more money than others. In West Bradford we have tried different methods, and still we are imposed upon, do the best we can. In 1875 we held our first fair. Last year we were at \$3,000 expense in moving our fair ground. We had not much money in the treasury; and concluded to sell life-membership tickets, and, I think, raised some two thousand dollars in that way. But we have been imposed upon by relatives and friends of life-members using the tickets. I do not think it is good policy to charge for the admission of teams. If we do, the people will say “We will not go to that fair again.”

EVANS ROGERS of Chester. I have been very much pleased with the different suggestions. I have listened attentively to each speaker, and every one has offered something worthy of consideration. If anything better can be suggested, I would like to hear it. If not, I move we adopt, as the recommendation to the different agricultural societies in Pennsylvania, the plan presented by Mr. Edge.

R. STILES. This subject can be fully discussed and finished before we pass on the question entirely. I believe when we come to consider how the societies are made up we can very well adopt a system that will benefit the different associations. I have heard some talk about stock companies; ours is not such a society. Our income is derived from selling tickets—annual tickets at one dollar, and life-membership at ten dollars. A life member stands on an equality with the man who pays one dollar, and receives four annual tickets. All go through the gate to the fair upon one ticket, which I think is a better system than

the use of coupons, the ticket having four numbers for one dollar, which numbers can be punched out like a railroad ticket. I do not think the discussion should be cut off at this point, and we may arrive at some conclusions which will benefit all societies.

J. W. MATHER of Tioga. I do not think there is a society in any county that has had the experience of our society during the past twenty-six years. We have tried the family ticket, the single ticket, on the Centennial plan, at twenty-five cents, and the day ticket. We have had people to jump over the fence, stick tickets through the fence to their friends, and misrepresent about the family, and we have had the people to cease their attendance. The society ran down, and we changed the name and started again. Now we issue a ticket to the exhibitor at one dollar, numbered and registered, with his name on it, which is placed on the index. We keep the same gate-keepers, who have been with us seven years, and know the people. We have a pass for helpers who take care of stock, etc., and people pass in on the twenty-cent ticket. Since we adopted this plan we have been successful; we pay our premiums, have paid for our grounds and buildings, and are out of debt, and believe we have the best system we can adopt. There are two societies in our county; one at Mansfield, with the entrance gate within twenty feet of the railroad, so that many go there in the trains, while we are three-quarters of a mile distant, and the people come by their own conveyance to our grounds. No charge is made for the admission of horses and carriages. We pay about \$1,500 in premiums. There is no stock. Our grounds are held by the association, which is incorporated for that purpose, and which holds the title to the ground. The Farmers' Agricultural Association is a mutual association, and every one who buys a dollar ticket is a member for one year.

H. C. SNOWDEN of Delaware. I think the plan proposed by Mr. Edge would be very advantageous. In the Delaware County Association each stockholder is entitled to a ticket, it matters not whether he has one share or one hundred, he receives but one ticket. We have had our society organized five years, and had no trouble with tickets. We have a large number issued by the railroad, and we are very glad to have them sell as many tickets as possible. Our fair ground is located near the railroad, and upon the arrival of a train our gates are so crowded that we can scarcely keep them clear. We charge half a dollar for every person who comes upon the grounds, and twenty-five cents for a horse. The tickets are taken up at the gate, and people cannot go in again without buying another ticket. We issue an exhibitor's ticket at one dollar, and charge ladies only half a dollar. Every one who exhibits must purchase an exhibitor's ticket.

CYRUS T. FOX of Berks. "What system or plan of issuing admission tickets is best adapted to agricultural exhibitions?" The system in vogue by the Berks County Agricultural Society has not been explained. I have remained silent for the purpose of hearing from other societies. I believe in the resolution just offered by Mr. Rogers of Chester county, especially if by that resolution it is meant, as I understand it, that a ticket shall be delivered up by every person who passes within the gates. I believe that is the only correct system, to require every person passing into the exhibition to deliver up a ticket, whether he be an exhibitor, a visitor, a life member, a stockholder, or attendant. In our society we have experienced great difficulty in reference to life members and attendants. We have simplified our mode of issuing

tickets very much during the past few years. We have no season tickets. We ascertained long ago the folly of issuing them. We now have a ticket for twenty-five cents, or four for one dollar, a fifteen-cent ticket for children, and a life member's ticket. During the past year we found a great demand for attendants' tickets, and we required every attendant's pass to be delivered up upon their admission in the morning or afternoon. The great demand for these grew into a serious evil. Complimentary tickets were issued only to representatives of the press and delegates of other societies.

Another difficulty we labored under was from the fact of our life members having unusual privileges. In 1865 tickets were sold at ten dollars each to relieve the pressing necessities of the society, with the understanding that the ticket should admit the holder and all the male members of his family under twenty-one years of age to all the exhibitions of the society during his life, and after his death, his widow and also all the male members of the family under twenty-one years of age should be entitled to the same privilege. About one hundred and fifty tickets were sold, and fifteen hundred dollars realized in a short time. The society was thus placed in a condition to meet its obligations. Upon a report presented by a special committee, at a regular meeting of the society, held on the 20th of March, 1880, in reference to the rights of life members, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a life membership ticket admits the holder, his wife, and female members of his family of any age, and also the male members of his family under twenty-one years of age, to all the exhibitions of the society, and after the death of the life member, his widow, and all the female and male members of her family, as above stated, shall be entitled to the same privilege."

With all these privileges, life members' tickets are sold at the low price of ten dollars each. There are two hundred and fifty-nine life members in our society at present, and three hundred and fifty-four annual members. Persons become annual members by the payment of one dollar, for which they receive four tickets and a certificate of membership. We call attention to that in our circulars, and recommend that persons become members. Membership in the society, securing all the privileges mentioned, and the right to vote at the annual meeting, as well as to vote upon all important questions, costs but a dollar per annum, and a certificate of membership can be obtained gratuitously at the annual fair, by the purchase one dollar's worth of tickets for admission at one time. Every person buying tickets to that amount is requested to ask for a certificate of membership. Life membership costs ten dollars. None but a member can compete for the premiums of the society. All persons are welcome at the monthly meetings of the society whether members or not. Among the privileges of membership are the opportunities of attending at the monthly meetings, the participation in the discussion, and in the free distribution of seeds, which take place every spring and fall. The reports of the National Department of Agriculture, and State Board of Agriculture, are disseminated through the medium of the society, as well as pamphlets, circulars, papers, and other matters of interest are distributed among the members at almost every meeting. We have but one ticket of admission, and a ticket for children. The certificate of membership holds from one fair to another. Notwithstanding the advantages, there are very few applications for life members' tickets, because persons can become members by purchasing one dollar's worth of

tickets, with all the privileges of membership. We had at one time over four hundred life members' tickets. Many tickets were surrendered, and a number of members died, (twelve during the last year), so that the life membership is reduced to two hundred and fifty-nine. Our treasurer, Mr. Ritter, is present. He has been our treasurer for the last six or seven years, and can enlighten the meeting further in regard to our ticket system.

I think it is the better plan to issue the same tickets each year, one ticket of admission, giving a certain number of papers press tickets, and let every life member and every annual member deliver up his ticket at the time of going in.

The secretary of the society I represent has never been entrusted with the tickets, but they are in the hands of the treasurer, who has given bond. The only tickets the secretary receives are the complimentary tickets, which are issued entirely to members of the press, to the agricultural papers, and newspapers in the county and adjoining counties, and in various parts of the state; also to all associations which are in the habit of sending delegates to our fairs. They have never exceeded two hundred tickets, and one hundred and fifty are considered sufficient.

Mr. SNOWDEN. Are checks issued?

Mr. FOX. All life-membership tickets are registered and a register is kept at each gate. The treasurer has a list of all the life members. As they appear at the gates they are required to give up their life-member checks, which are furnished by the treasurer. Last year we required a ticket to be given up by every person passing through the gates. The plan seemed to work very well. The demand for passes came principally from attendants.

Upon motion of Mr. ROGERS, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That, in the judgment of this convention, it is advisable for all agricultural societies in Pennsylvania to have but one class of tickets, to be purchased of the ticket-sellers and delivered up at the gate.

LIST OF COUNTY AND LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES,
*With Names and Addresses of Secretaries and Dates for holding Fall Exhibitions of 1890, compiled from official reports
and sources by the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture.*

[Those marked with an * are represented in the Board of Agriculture by elected members.]

COUNTY.	Corporate Name of Society.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Where held.	When held.
	PENNSYLVANIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,	D. W. Selter, Harrisburg, . . .	York, . . .	October 6-11.
	STATE HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, . . .	E. B. Engle, Waynesboro, . . .	Holds no fair, . . .	Holds no fair
	INTERSTATE EXPOSITION, . . .	R. H. Thomas, Mechanicsburg, . . .	Williams' Grove, . . .	August 25-30.
	FARMERS' ENCAMPMENT ASSOCIATION, . . .	Dr. T. A. Correll, Harrisburg, . . .	Mt. Gretna, . . .	August 18-23.
Armstrong,*	Dayton Agricultural and Mechanical Association,	J. A. Morrow, Dayton, . . .	Dayton, . . .	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Do.	Petroleum Agricultural Society, . . .	R. Balf, Parker's Landing, . . .	Parker's Landing, . . .	Sept. 15-18.
Beaver,*	Beaver County Agricultural Society, . . .	R. W. Stiffy, Beaver, . . .	Beaver, . . .	Sept. 23-26.
Do.	Mill Creek Valley Agricultural Society, . . .	R. M. Swaney, McCleary, . . .	Hookstown, . . .	August 19-22.
Bedford,*	Bedford County Agricultural Society, . . .	T. S. Gilchrist, Bedford, . . .	Bedford, . . .	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Berks,*	Berks County Agricultural and Hort. Society, . . .	Cyrus T. Fox, Reading, . . .	Reading, . . .	Sept. 16-19.
Do.	Keystone Agricultural Society, . . .	C. J. Rhode, Kutztown, . . .	Kutztown, . . .	October 7-10.
Blair,*	Blair County Agricultural Society, . . .	J. M. Lingafelt, Holidaysburg, . . .	Holidaysburg, . . .	Sept. 10-13.
Bradford,*	Bradford County Agricultural Society, . . .	J. H. Coddling, Towanda, . . .	East Towanda, . . .	Sept. 23-26.
Do.	Union Agricultural Association, . . .	C. D. Derrah, Canton, . . .	Canton, . . .	Sept. 2-4.
Do.	Troy Farmers' Club, . . .	J. R. Vannoy, East Troy, . . .	Troy, . . .	August 26-29.
Bucks,*	Doylestown Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, . . .	J. E. Zorn, Doylestown, . . .	Doylestown, . . .	Sept. 23-26.
Butler,*	Butler County Agricultural Society, . . .	W. P. Roessing, Butler, . . .	Butler, . . .	Sept. 9-12.
Cambria,	Cambria County Agricultural Association, . . .	C. A. Buck, Hastings, . . .	Carrolltown, . . .	Sept. 8-11.
Carbon,	Carbon County Industrial Society, . . .	E. Bauer, East Mauch Chunk, . . .	Lehighton, . . .	October 7-10.
Centre,*	Centre County Agricultural Society, . . .	B. Lear, West Chester, . . .	Bellefonte, . . .	No fair.
Chester,*	Chester County Agricultural Society, . . .	Branson Slack, Oxford, . . .	West Chester, . . .	No fair.
Do.	Oxford Agricultural Society, . . .	I. J. Tustin, Phoenixville, . . .	Oxford, . . .	Sept. 24-26.
Do.	Phoenixville Agricultural and Driving Park Ass'n, . . .		Phoenixville, . . .	No report.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—Continued.

QUARTERLY REPORT.

COUNTY.	Corporate Name of Society.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Where held.	When held.
Clarion,*	Clarion County Agricultural Society,	J. H. Patrick, Clarion,	Clarion,	Sept. 23-26.
Clearfield,	DuBois Agricultural Society,	E. B. Nettleton, DuBois,	DuBois,	Sept. 2-5.
Clinton,*	Clinton County Agricultural Society,	D. J. McNaul, Cedar Springs,	Cedar Springs,	No fair.
Columbia,*	Columbia County Agricultural Society,	M. P. Lutz, Bloomsburg,	Bloomsburg,	October 15-18.
Do.	Northern Columbia and Southern Luzerne Agricultural Society,	J. H. Eck, Berwick,	Berwick,	Sept. 3-6.
Do.	Benton Agricultural Society,	H. O. McHenry, Benton,	Benton,	October 1-4.
Crawford,*	Crawford County Agricultural Society,	A. J. Harper, Conneautville,	Conneautville,	Sept. 2-5.
Do.	French Creek Valley Agricultural Society,	J. H. Adams, Cochranton,	Cochranon,	Sept. 10-12.
Do.	Oil Creek Valley Agricultural Society,	F. W. Truesdale, Titusville,	Titusville,	Sept. 2-5.
Do.	Woodcock Fair Association,	A. W. Spaulding, Venango,	Woodcock,	No fair.
Do.	Central Crawford Agricultural Society,	A. F. Moses, Cambridge,	Cambridgeboro',	Sept. 16-19.
Cumberland,*	Cumberland County Agricultural Society,	E. B. Watts, Carlisle,	Carlisle,	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Dauphin,*	Dauphin County Agricultural Society,	W. H. H. Seig, Steelton,	Gratz,	No fair.
Do.	Gratz Agricultural Society,	H. G. Dornheim, Gratz,	Elwyn,	Sept. 23-26.
Delaware,*	Delaware County Agricultural Society,	H. C. Snowden, Media,	St. Mary's,	No report.
Elk,	Elk County Agricultural Society,	N. L. Bear, St. Mary's,	Erie,	No fair.
Erie,*	Erie County Agricultural Society,	W. H. Luce, Erie,	Corry,	Sept. 16-19.
Do.	North Western Agricultural Society,	N. Stone, Corry,	Wattsburg,	Sept. 16-19.
Do.	Wattsburg Agricultural Society,	W. H. Cornell, Wattsburg,	Edinboro',	Sept. 9-12.
Do.	Edinboro' Agricultural Society,	C. O. Scraftord, Edinboro',	Uniontown,	August 26-29.
Fayette,	Fayette County Agricultural Association,	W. C. McKean, Uniontown,	Greencastle,	Holds no fair.
Franklin,*	Farmers' Association of Franklin County,	H. Omwake, Greencastle,	Carmichaels,	October 8-9.
Greene,	Greene County Agricultural Society,	J. L. Clawson, Carmichaels,	Waynesburg,	No fair.
Do.	Waynesburg Central Agriculture Society,	E. F. Downey, Waynesburg,	Indiana,	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Indiana,*	Indiana County Agricultural Society,	John H. Pierce, Indiana,	Brookville,	Sept. 9-12.
Jefferson,*	Jefferson County Agricultural Society,	S. H. Whitehill, Brookville,	Punxsutawney,	Sept. 16-19.
Do.	Punxsutawney Agricultural Society,	T. J. Cooper, Punxsutawney,		

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Juniata,*	Juniata County Agricultural Society,	M. R. Wharton, Port Royal,	Port Royal,	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Lackawanna,*	Lackawanna County Agricultural Society,	D. M. Jones, Scranton,	Scranton,	Sept. 22-25.
Do.	North Lackawanna Farmers' Association,	J. L. Stone, Waverly,	Waverly,	Holds no fair.
Lancaster,*	Lancaster County Agricultural Society,	J. C. Linvill, Gap,	Lancaster,	Holds no fair.
Do.	Lancaster County Fair Association,	Jacob B. Long, Lancaster,	Lancaster,	Sept. 9-12.
Lawrence,*	Lawrence County Agricultural Society,	J. B. Johnston, New Castle,	New Castle,	August 26-29.
Lebanon,*	Lebanon Valley Agr. and Mechanical Association,	J. P. Uhrich, Lebanon,	Lebanon,	Sept. 2-5.
Lehigh,*	Lehigh County Agricultural Society,	L. P. Hecker, Allentown,	Allentown,	Sept. 29-Oct. 3.
Luzerne,*	Luzerne County Agricultural Society,	D. O. McCollum, Wyoming,	Wyoming,	Sept. 9-12.
Do.	Dallas Union Agricultural Society,	John T. Phillips, Dallas,	Dallas,	Sept. 2-5.
Lycoming,*	Muncy Valley Farmers' Club Agricultural Society,	A. C. Henry, Hughesville,	Hughesville,	October 15-19.
McKean,	McKean County Agricultural Society,	A. J. Hughes, Port Allegany,	Port Allegany,	No fair.
Mercer,	Mercer County Agricultural Society,	J. F. Hines, Stoneboro',	Stoneboro',	Sept. 24-26.
Do.*	Mercer Central Agricultural Society,	W. J. McKean, Mercer,	Mercer,	Sept. 8-10.
Do.	Keystone and Buckeye Agricultural Society,	T. B. Bell, Sharon,	Sharon,	No fair.
Do.	Monroe County Agricultural Society,	R. B. Keller, Stroudsburg,	Stroudsburg,	Sept. 2-6.
Monroe,*	Montgomery, Chester and Berks Agr. Society,	E. P. Ancona, Pottstown,	Pottstown,	Sept. 23-26.
Montgomery,*	Montour County Agricultural Society,	W. B. Baldy, Danville,	Danville,	Sept. 16-19.
Montour,*	Northern Montour Agricultural Society,	C. E. Shires, Washingtonville,	Washingtonville,	October 7-10.
Do.	Northampton County Agricultural Society,	J. J. Maus, Nazareth,	Nazareth,	October 7-10.
Northampton,*	Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute,	T. H. Hay, Easton,	Easton,	No report.
Do.	Milton Driving Park and Fair Association,	M. H. Barr, Milton,	Milton,	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Northumberland,*	Perry County Agricultural Society,	J. B. Eby, Newport,	Newport,	Sept. 16-19.
Perry,*	Potter County Agr. and Horticultural Society,	C. L. Peck, Coudersport,	Coudersport,	No report.
Potter,	Schuylkill County Agricultural Society,	G. H. Yeager, Orwigsburg,	Orwigsburg,	Sept. 30-Oct. 3.
Schuylkill,*	Ringtown Agricultural Society,	I. Applegate, Shenandoah,	Ringtown,	Sept. 11-13.
Do.	Sullivan County Agricultural Society,	F. Newell, Dushore,	Forks ville,	October 1-3.
Sullivan,*	Susquehanna County Agricultural Society,	D. A. Tittsworth, Montrose,	Montrose,	October 1-2.
Susquehanna,*	Harford Agricultural Society,	L. Tiffany, Harford,	Harford,	Sept. 24-25.
Do.	Keystone Agricultural Society,	W. T. Estabrook, Great Bend,	Great Bend,	No report.
Do.	Farmers' Agricultural Society of Tioga County,	J. W. Mather, Wellsboro',	Wellsboro',	Sept. 2-5.
Tioga,*	Tioga County Agr. and Mech. Industrial Ass'n,	J. A. Elliott, Mansfield,	Mansfield,	Sept. 23-26.
Do.	Union County Agricultural Society,	G. E. Long, Lewisburg,	Lewisburg,	October 7-9.
Union,*	Venango County Agricultural Society,	J. Miller, Franklin,	Franklin,	No fair.
Venango,*	Warren County Agricultural Association,	Willis Cowan, Warren,	Warren,	Sept. 9-12.
Warren,*	Western Pennsylvania Agricultural Association,	A. G. Happer, Washington,	Washington,	Sept. 1-5.
Washington,*				

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES—Continued.

COUNTY.	Corporate Name of Society.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Where held.	When held.
Washington, . . .	Union Agriculture Association, . . .	W. Melvin, Burgettstown, . . .	Burgettstown, . . .	Sept. 30-Oct. 2.
Wayne,* . . .	Wayne County Agricultural Society, . . .	R. M. Stocker, Honesdale, . . .	Honesdale, . . .	Sept. 23-25.
Westmoreland,* . . .	Westmoreland County Agricultural Society, . . .	M. N. Clark, Greensburg, . . .	Greensburg, . . .	October 7-10.
Wyoming,* . . .	Wyoming County Agricultural Society, . . .	J. W. Piatt, Tunkhannock, . . .	Tunkhannock, . . .	Sept. 13-20.
York,* . . .	York County Agricultural Society, . . .	E. Chapin, York, . . .	York, . . .	October 6-11.
Do.	Hanover Agricultural Society, . . .	M. O. Smith, Hanover, . . .	Hanover, . . .	Sept. 9-12.

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